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Inter-Arab Affairs

Europe Arab Congress Criticizes U.S. Actions

LD1101171891 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] A statement issued by the Congress of Arabs in Europe affirms that, especially since the meeting by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the Kuwait crisis has been heading toward the confrontation which the U.S. Government has planned from the beginning, particularly since the United States changed its declared aims from defending Saudi Arabia to removing the Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The statement says that the Arab people, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf, condemn and strongly deplore U.S. and Atlantic military deployment in the Gulf region. They have come to defend rulers whose only preoccupation is the abuse of mankind and the stealing of its national resources.

Secretary General Denounces Arab-Iraq Collusion

LD1301225991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2027 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 13 Jan (SPA)—GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Secretary General 'Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah has denounced the stands of some Arab countries toward the Iraqi aggression on the State of Kuwait.

In a news statement today, he said that these regimes have tried, through partiality toward the Iraqi regime, to practice policies of deception and procrastination with the hope of reaping some fruits from the aggression and crime. Bisharah holds these countries responsible before history for failing to support the stands of right, and for trying to show that the Kuwaiti people has been terminated historically.

He pointed out that the peoples of the GCC member countries have monitored the stands and statements of the officials who support the Iraqi oppression against Kuwait. He described these statements as a very bad record which the Kuwaiti people will read shortly in order to learn the truth about the hypocrisy and the volume of the plot. He added that these countries have failed to identify the crime and to hold the Iraqi regime responsible for it. He affirmed that everyone will bear the consequence of his actions.

Iraq, Kuwaiti Opposition Mediation Bid Fails

LD1101191091 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Informed Arab sources say that mediation between Iraq and the previous Kuwaiti opposition has failed.

These sources point out that an Arab personality, who used to have good relations with the Kuwaiti opposition, tried to find common ground for dialogue between Baghdad and some principals of the Kuwaiti opposition abroad. The personality conveyed a message from the Iraqi leadership to the Kuwaiti opposition which was delivered to the former Kuwaiti leader, Ahmad al-Khatib, who resides in London. The message is an initiative on the basis of which a dialogue about the future of Kuwait could start.

The Arab mediator, however, was surprised by Al-Khatib's reply, as it rejected any dialogue or settlement. Al-Khatib announced that he would rather put Kuwait on board an American tank than find a settlement with Iraq.

U.S.-UK 'Commando Operation' in Kuwait Reported

NC1301101191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] A British Defense Ministry official has said that joint American-British forces carried out a commando operation against an Iraqi position in Kuwait. They captured a surface-to-air missile and took it to Saudi Arabia to dismantle it.

Kuwaiti, UAE Groups Quit Teachers' Meeting

LD1401001691 London KUNA in Arabic 1711 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Sana, 13 Jan (KUNA)—The delegation of the Kuwaiti Teachers' Association has walked out of the conference of the General Council of the Arab Teachers' Union, now convening in Sana, in protest against the Conference's failure to demand the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government and people to the situation prevalent prior to the Iraqi invasion on 2 August.

Following the walkout, the delegation of the Kuwaiti Teachers' Association issued a statement saying that "As we felt the conference was not interested in demanding the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government and people of Kuwait to the status quo that existed prior to 2 August, we have decided to walk out of the current conference of the General Council and to remain so until the right is restored to its owners."

The delegation of the UAE Teachers' Association has also walked out of the conference in solidarity with the delegation of the Kuwaiti Teachers' Association.

In a message addressed to the conference, the delegation of the UAE Teachers' Association affirmed that it will not abide by any of the resolutions adopted by the current conference of the council.

The General Council of the Arab Teachers' Union unanimously rejected at the start of the conference on 8 January a motion submitted by the delegation of the Iraqi Teachers' Union declaring illegitimate the presence of the delegation of the Kuwaiti Teachers' Union.

Despite the Iraqi delegation's reservation against the rejection of its motion, the council endorsed the legitimacy of the delegation of the Kuwaiti Teachers' Association as a founding member of the Arab Teachers' Union and its General Council and its participation in the work of the council as the legitimate representative of the Teachers' Society of the State of Kuwait.

The General Council's decision is considered to be the first defeat suffered by the Iraqi delegation at the conference which concluded its work today.

Islamic Affairs

Baghdad Islamic Conference Continues Meeting

Saddam Gives Speech

JN1101190091 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn to the International Islamic Popular Conference in Baghdad; date not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brothers; praise be to God, the merciful, the compassionate, who retrieved for your Baghdad the spirit as you wanted it to be and brought you to Baghdad to be its support and strong backing.

Praise be to God, who has enabled us to reach the state he wants for us. We thank God that he set us on the path from which there is no return: the path of belief and jihad [applause], not for the sake of Iraq and the Arabs only, but for the sake of all Muslims—nay, even for the sake of humanity wherever it has been tortured, oppressed, and unjustly treated. These are the principles Islam has called for and which Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, worked for in spreading the call honestly and with conviction. After him, the orthodox caliphs, and all those who followed their course did the same.

In this meeting, I do not want to indulge in details of history and its bright or dark spots. As we have a limited amount of time and so as not to delay your agenda which, God willing, you will proceed with, we must concentrate on some aspects that will reassure the hearts of believing Muslims.

The battle today, dear brothers, is not a battle for land, nor is it a battle in a small arena. It is not a battle for circumstantial goals; it is a battle for humanitarian goals. It is not a partial state, but a whole, general, comprehensive state. In short, it is a battle between infidelity and belief [applause]; it is a battle between justice and injustice; it is a battle between the good believers and the evil corrupt ones.

As we said on a previous occasion, we know that God, praise be to him, has assigned the Arabs the role of service and leadership. If the Arabs become corrupt, the state of Islam and the Muslims become difficult. This image has been set before us since we were students in secondary school. We know that the Arabs have two duties: the duty to serve, maintain, and spread the call, and the duty to guide. To enjoy these two duties, they must purge themselves. If they do not purge themselves, then there is no possibility for them to be able to lead.

After corruption spread among the Arabs and after many of them became so weak and submissive and became humiliated slaves to infidelity, the household had to be purged from the inside, especially because a corner of the household has embarked upon destruction and conspiracies against a bright light in another corner of this dear homeland. What happened has happened not to remind people of an usurped Iraqi right but of the complete and comprehensive role of faithful Iraq at this stage and of the duties it has to carry out toward itself, in order to become a strong foundation, and toward the whole nation, in order to take the right course in terms of faith and Jihad.

The treacherous have become known—if they had not been known before—through the present uproar, threats, and troop concentration. The conspiratorial and corrupt role of the former Kuwaiti rulers had been previously unknown, but every sane man can now learn the role that was assigned to them through the present events in the whole world. Has anything like this happened before? Had all these armies massed before for a similar purpose? It is very clear that the essence is different.

The measures taken after 2 August reinforce the basis of faith and make it stronger in the face of conspiracies and make it more capable of carrying out its Arab, Islamic, and human duties. They also make it capable of playing a necessary leading role in liberating Jerusalem and Palestine. The infidels, with the cooperation of people whose faith, ethics, and true manliness are weak, have come to occupy the Muslims' sacred places, to occupy Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] under the pretext that these armies came to defend Saudi Arabia. You know and we also know that this allegation is false and unfounded. These armies, including the women, have come to defend Fahd. We do not belittle women, but it is men who should carry the banner of battle. This law has existed from the beginnings of the human race. Women therefore should not go before men if there are men available. Under other circumstances, however, we believe, as faithful people, that if jihad calls, everyone should respond, everyone from his position, his capability, and his energy. Fahd should have called the women of Najd and Hejaz to jihad to liberate Jerusalem, instead of calling American women wearing shorts to defend his regime against the Saudi people; in other words, the people of Najd and Hejaz. They expected that if they massed more troops, the front of fidelity would weaken, but they have been deluded and so they have lost. The basis of faith cannot be shaken even if their armies are double the number. They asked us: Why are you not frightened, seeing as 28 states are allied against you? We said: Their numbers do not frighten us. We depend on God, the One and Only.

Victory is near, God willing. Victory is near, God willing. It is as if we saw victory coming to us, balanced with the faith that is in our breasts, because of our firm steps toward it. People speak about international legitimacy. They have just remembered international legitimacy. They have now remembered international law. We wonder: If you remember international legitimacy and international law, we should be able to go over the facts accurately with you. So, let us begin with Palestine.

The Arabs, the Muslims, and all the believers ask a specific question: Is the Israeli occupation of Palestine legitimate in keeping with international law and international legitimacy? You must answer clearly. If you answered clearly, right has been restored to its people, and Palestine has returned to the Palestinians. We then say that as long as the international community acts fairly, doors must be open for it to discuss all issues in accordance with international legitimacy and international law. Of course, when we speak about Palestine, it is as if we were speaking about dreams or phantoms that man can barely remember. Whether they agree to link the issues and to deal with them in accordance with international legitimacy or not, Palestine will return to its people and to the believers, God willing.

Brothers, I assure you—and the basis for this assurance lies in the subject I am assuring you about—that these steadfast people are a mujahidin people, because they believe in God. I assure you that there is a role they must play toward themselves, toward Muslims, and toward humanity. He who believes in God and in the role he is playing for the sake of God and for the sake of right cannot be defeated.

Still, I want to assure you about other parties. I tell you that God's saying, "Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power" [part of Koranic verse], is present and lives in all the details of what we have prepared [applause] to confront aggression and aggressors, to confront corruption and the corrupt, and to confront infidelity and infidels.

Brothers, I assure you that all these 28 states, and all the dens of evil, treachery, and treason, have not been able to mass against the army of the believers except by one quarter only. [applause] They have massed 14 divisions and later increased them, and we massed in front of them 60 divisions and we increased them. [applause, shouts of "God is great"] They will tell you that America is developed in terms of missiles, developed in aircraft, and developed in its ability to [electronically] jam the Iraqis [military equipment]. I will now explain to you a portion of this situation.

They have weapons that strike from afar. Under all circumstances, one who wants to oust a fighter from the land will eventually depend on a ground soldier who comes with a hand grenade, rifle, and bayonet to fight the soldier in the battle trench. They will begin to pour fire on fighters, economic installations, or other places. In the final analysis, to drive the fighters out of the theater of operations, they must send in tanks and infantry. If you go to the theater of operations now, you will not see the thousands of tanks and million people. You will rarely see them; you may see traffic on public roads. The rest are all fortified underground so that when they direct fire toward them to allow their tanks and infantry to advance, the fighters will emerge safe and able to fight. All this technological superiority, which is on paper, will eventually be tested in the theater of operations. We are not people who speak on the basis of books. We are people with fighting experience. We know what fighting is about. Theoretically, we know that the gunpowder and smoke of a weapon fired from a distance of 40 km in the theater of operations will force a plane to come down to five km so it can see its target. It cannot see its target from a distance of 40 km in the theater of operations. When it gets to five, 10, 20, or 30 km, our weapons can bring it down.

They will play Rambo in the air. You may have not seen these American movies. They will look for an empty area where there are no military units so they can land. They will land here and there, thinking they can confuse the command and the planners. This might happen to people with weak nerves. It may happen to a people with no fighting experience. But I assure you that in Iraq we will be quiet; we will see where they land and the young men will go to them armed. All Iraqis are armed. The students are armed, the peasants are armed. Here we say without hesitatiion that women are also armed [applause] for the sake of jihad, for the sake of fighting, and for the sake of God. They will not be able to confuse the theater of operations with their skill in helicopter transport. They will land in some places. We will be patient. They want to land; let the Americans land in any place they choose. Let them be eaten by jackals. [laughter] The American has no aim in Iraq. When he lands in a certain place, he will sit there because he will consequently be forced to ask for a plane and leave. Of course, we will not allow him to rest; that is not the way we act. The young men will go to him and he will see what he has not seen before.

Your brothers are fighting for these principles, which you yourselves mentioned before I came to this hall. I summed up in order to explain the principles for which the Iraqis are fighting.

We are fighting for the sake of honor in this world. Prior to that, we were fighting for the principles of the God of the heavens and earth. Our paradise is the paradise God promised the believers. Their paradise is the paradise of infidelity—the image they have on this earth of what paradise is. They are looking for the earthly pleasures not available on the Arabian Peninsula. They are available in the United States, France, Belgium, and Italy. We are looking for the supreme values that satisfy God and the believers.

Does this comparison allow the French man, the American, the Briton, and anyone else who came to fight, irrespective of his nationality, and anyone who wants to attack Iraq, to come here? Would he accept being told that this is the first frontline; that the last ones among you have to reach the depth, penetrate this depth, and then the second line of defense, then another depth, and then yet a third line of defense, and then another depth, shed rivers of blood for all this, and continue to march forward? Do you believe that the invading infidel fighter has this kind of spirit? This cannot happen. This cannot happen. [repeats himself] We have prepared ourselves and our equipment to confront such a situation if it does happen; our preparation is of a level that will defeat the aggressive armies because the slogan of "God is great" [applause] is the lofty banner our fighters are guided by and believe in.

They will jam the command headquarters to cut off communications between the command headquarters and the fighters. As far as we are concerned, we will not need communication. We have conducted exercises based on such premises for over a year because we know that Israel has this kind of capability. Israel is America's daughter. Anyone preparing for a possible confrontation or an actual confrontation with Israel must also prepare to deal with such a case.

Therefore, for one year, our Army has been carrying out exercises and has been training on the premise that the fighters will be performing their duties when their communications are cut off from headquarters.

Let me reassure you even further. They concentrated all their jamming power on our Army, which was purging the land of Kuwait from the filth of the agents and the corrupt. Even so, it performed its duties in a very correct manner.

They have the capability to jam communications between the pilot and his headquarters. I am not talking about the other things for which we have taken all necessary precautions; I am only talking about one aspect. I tell you that the Iraqi pilot can fly and perform his duties and bring down enemy planes without needing to contact his headquarters. He has received training of this kind for years. The Iraqi pilot is capable of performing these duties at night and during the day equally well.

In speaking of all this, I used nontraditional terms to enhance the elements of reassurance, the elements of reassurance [repeats himself] before you so that your hearts would be confident in victory, God willing. The front is yours, and the soldiers, God willing, are the soldiers of faith. They are your brothers and sons. Anyone who would like to visit the front is welcome at any time. This is something that you can organize yourselves. You will find your brothers from Iraq present with you to organize anything you deem appropriate.

At any rate, my brothers, the basic thing is faith. The basic thing is that we must constantly ask ourselves if we are in the right. If the answer is yes, then no despotic power, no matter how strong it may be or how technically advanced it may be, can coerce the gathering of the believers. Your brothers, beyond their reliance on God Almighty, have enough equipment for the confrontation. God is near. God willing, Palestine will return to its people, God willing.

Brother al-'Alami [Jerusalem mufti Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami], please convey our greetings to the people of Palestine. [speaker reads Koranic verses and interpretes]

May God's peace and blessings be upon you, brothers. [applause]

Conference Calls for Jihad

JN1101205991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1945 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] The international Islamic popular conference has declared that holy Islamic jihad is a must for every sane Muslim of age at a moment when Iraq or any other Muslim country comes under attack from the infidels, hypocrites, and their agents, foremost of which is the United States.

In a statement issued at the conclusion of its meeting this evening, the conference called on the ulemas of the nation and the leaders of Islamic action, such as parties, organizations, and societies, to take effective measures to mobilize the masses of the strugglers [mujahidin] and prepare them for the great mother of all battles.

The conference highly appreciated the intitiative presented by the leader struggler President Saddam Husayn on 12 August and considered it a reliable key for radical, just, and permament solutions to all problems in the region. They blessed the brave struggle of the leaders and people of Iraq in confronting the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy which seeks to humiliate the Arabs and desecrate their Muslim shrines.

Mecca Conference Issues Declaration to Muslims

Urges Confrontation of Iraq

LD1101185791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Mecca, 11 Jan (SPA)—The executive council of the Islamic Popular Conference which is convened in holy Mecca concluded its work at the grand lectures hall of the World Islamic League.

Afterward, the rector of al-Azhar University Dr Ahmad 'Umar Hashim read out the "Declaration of holy Mecca" issued by the Executive Council of the Islamic Popular Conference. Here is the text of the declaration:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

The ulema [theologians] of Islam are required to explain the facts and give a wise opinion to the nation [ummah] on every occasion, especially when sedition occurs and confusion is rife.

There is no doubt that the nation today is confronting cases of sedition, some of which have taken people's lives. Therefore, the nation is in dire need of wise guidance and sound opinion.

By rising to the honesty of knowledge and sensing the responsibility toward this extremely crucial and agonizing stage which is full of warnings and terrifying dangers to the present and the future of the nation, and in affirmation of the resolutions of the Islamic conference in holy Mecca in the month of Safar 1411 [month beginning 23 August 1990], a great number of zealous and honourable Islamic ulema and religious propagators called for convening an urgent meeting in holy Mecca.

In the period from 23 to 25 Jamad al-Ula 1411, corresponding to 9-11 January 1991, the conference of ulema and religious propagators was convened with God's grace and guidance. [passage omitted]

After thorough consultation and a perceptive exchange of views over three days, the meeting of ulema and propagators [of the faith] in Mecca issued the following statement:

The Mecca Declaration to the Islamic Nation:

The Islamic nation is currently going through one of the most difficult stages in its history, and the most distressing and calamitous to Muslims, their religion, world, personal, and public security, their private lives and their existence in the world. The Iraqi aggression on Kuwait was the source of that tribulation. Since that aggression took place, the Islamic nation has been in a state of deep sorrow and overall discord, which has not left any member of this nation who has not been struck a lasting blow.

Although over half a year has passed since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Iraqi regime has not listened to the voice of justice, and has not responded to the calls of fraternity, neigborliness, wisdom, and interest. These [calls] have been numerous, successive, and at many levels. [passage omitted]

This is a sin that the conscience of the ulema and propagators cannot bear; nor can they keep silent about it, because it is a sin that portrays Islam as a religion that appeases the oppressors and approves tyranny—whereas repelling injustice on earth is one of the great objectives of Islam.

Among the practical facts that show the cunning exploitation of Islam is the conference now being organized under an Islamic slogan by the Iraqi regime in Baghdad. The contradiction between Islam and the materialism that is the basis of the Iraqi regime is obvious to anyone with awareness and conscience.

No one has the right to monopolize Islam or to prevent the people from turning to it. There is a big and clear difference between a sincere trend toward Islam and the exploitation of Islam. The evidence of the first instance is the response to God and to His Prophet in everything. As for the second, it requires nothing more than raising the slogan of Islam to seek the realization of aims that have no relationship with Islam.

If the Iraqi leadership is sincere in following Islam and truthful in responding to the Islamic popular conferences which it convenes, it is required to respect those conferences and to fulfill any undertakings which it gave them in the past.

That [Islamic] conference [in Baghdad] passed many resolutions. The second resolution stipulated: The prohibition of the use of violence and resort to military force to settle disputes between Islamic states, and the need to resort to God's book [Koran] and the Prophet's sunnah [his sayings and doings, later established as binding precedents]

What indicates that Islam is being exploited and not adhered to by the Iraqi regime is that all the pledges and resolutions that the Iraqi regime promised to implement have been violated without exception. By occupying Kuwait and threatening the Gulf countries, the Iraqi regime violated the principles of rightness, justice, and good-neighborliness. It has also violated the principles and charters that prohibit the use of violence and the violation of the right of a neighbor. [passage omitted]

Those who are gathered in Mecca today express their surprise and astonishment at, and condemnation of, the stance adopted by some of those who claim to have knowledge and [Islamic] call, who are supporting the Iraqi regime, and who have attended its conferences—after it has become clear to them that the regime uses Islam only as a tool. Do those supporters of the Iraqi regime not remember the killing, banishment, and annihilation of our brother Kurds by Saddam Husayn...Do they not remember the killing, imprisonment, and banishment of the men of the Islamic Call [reference to Da'wah Party] by Saddam Husayn, and that Iraqi prisons are still full of propagators and ulema...Do they not remember that he rules Iraq on the basis of a secular socialist constitution? [passage omitted]

Giving the benefit of the doubt has conditions. The most important is: The person must not behave in any way that prejudices this belief. The Iraqi leadership committed a hostile act manifested in the occupation of an Arab and Muslim state, rendering its people homeless and destroying its institutions—despite the regional, Arab, and international treaties linking Kuwait with its neighbors.

The ulema convening in holy Mecca have seen with clear vision through the passage of time, and from observing the results, that it is incorrect to think that the disaster which the Iraqi regime has inflicted on the nation is confined to Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, or the rest of the Arabian Gulf.

The consequences of the Iraqi aggression and its repercussions and effects go beyond this scope to extend to the entire Arab and Islamic world and all mankind.

The meetings of the Arab League foundered after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, creating a sharp division and a violent rift inside the League. The regular summit conference of the Islamic conference organization was delayed from being convened on time. Psychological anxiety spread, security became disturbed, economic losses mounted, the oil and financial markets became weak, and the ills of the Islamic world doubled as a result of this. The activity of the [Islamic] call and charitable work diminished, and Jewish emigrants to occupied Palestine poured in at a faster and much greater rate. The power of the crisis created by the Iraqi regime diverted attention away from the blessed intifadah in the occupied territories, and the opposition of the Palestinians by the Jews became more intense.

The conferees, monitoring these terrifying and adverse consequences, advise every Muslim to use them as a guide to condemn the corrupt behavior of the Iraqi regime.

We seek from our declaration to save the nation from a destructive war that will kill man and beast if it breaks out and lasts for as long as God wills it to last. The will to avert war requires a frank and courageous confrontation with the Iraqi stubbornness which is the basic reason for this dangerous war.

Every person who is eager to rescue the nation from this war must struggle to remove its cause, namely, to reject the refusal of the Iraqi regime to withdraw its invading troops from Kuwait.

The Muslim ulema who are meeting in holy Mecca sense the gravity of the situation, and they are aware of the horrors of the calamity of a war that will shake the world if its volcano erupts. They are aware that the nation is heading for a future fraught with great danger—unless it takes precautions, raises the level of vigilance, and brings Saddam Husayn to the word of right by isolating him psychologically, by enforcing an intellectual and media blockade around him, and by striking his ear for good by uttering the courageous words: Saddam Husayn, get out of Kuwait. Get out now and not tomorrow. Get out and do not become like the wretched Thamud [biblical figure who brought disaster on his people]. Get out and stop calling for the liberation of Palestine. Those who adopt the similar idea of occupying and colonizing the historical claims to Palestine are not the ones who can defend Palestine. Get out—or present and future generations of the nation will blame you for every drop of blood to be shed. They will blame you for every house that is destroyed and blame you for destroying Iraq and more than Iraq.

This concept clarifies the great wrong of the stand of those who appease the Iraqi regime and who do not give it [the above] advice. This appeasement tempts the regime to persist in its inflexible stance. This stance is the wide gateway to the hell of war.

The Mecca meeting, while making these facts and events clear and placing them before the Islamic world, ends its declaration to the Islamic nation by confirming the following: 1. The word of the ulema and preachers should unite in the issue of the confrontation and condemnation of the Iraqi aggression. It is one of the characteristics of believers and those who preach for God to stand as one in the repulsing of injustice. [passage omitted]

2. All those who supported the Iraqi regime in its tyranny and injustice are called on to reexamine their action and fear God in their deeds, and to realize that this action of theirs is a provocation against God and His Messenger, and a pretext for the tearing to bits of the Islamic nation and its dispute, and that they should return to the Islamic ranks, join the Islamic community in the confronting Saddam Husayn, and in detering him from his injustice and tyranny. [passage omitted]

Siding with this unjust regime is siding with injustice and encouragement for the continuation of the aggression against Kuwait, the oppression of its people, the destruction of its institutions and the damaging of its environment. It is also an incitement to intransigence which leads to war. Incitement to commit a crime is participation in the crime. Thus, those who support the Iraqi leadership bear a great responsibility for the consequences of the outbreak of war and its losses in men and property.

3. While calling for saving the homeland from a vicious war, the ulema acknowledge that the sole means of salvation is for the Iraqi leadership to heed, and to urgently and clearly respond to the calls of the ulema and propagators of Islam, the Arab summit conference, the Islamic foreign ministers' conference, and the UN Security Council, for the immediate and complete withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. They also acknowledge that the Iraqi leadership's insistence on the occupation of Kuwait will ignite a war of dire consequences that will turn our attention away from our great causes, especially the cause of Palestine.

4. While noting the aberrant nature of the Iraqi leadership and its deviation from the principles and vital interests of the Islamic homeland, the meeting of the ulema acknowledges the Iraqi people's authentic Arab and Islamic nature and its leading role in the service of Islam and its civilisation through a long history that is replete with scientific contributions, and its defense of the homeland. The conferees also acknowledge that this people is hapless and that the Iraqi regime has practised cruelty and violence on this people prior to practicing it on others.

The ulema's call for the need to save the homeland from the devastations of war is thus underpinned by the motives of protecting and defending the security and well-being of the Iraqi people, and of defending the entire homeland from the dire consequences of the Iraqi regime's actions. While being concerned for the interests of the Iraqi people, the ulema call on it to show its discontent with, and declare its disavowal from, their unjust leadership.

5. The Muslim ulema gathered in Mecca are addressing a sincere and loyal call to the Iraqi Army, urging it to disobey the orders of its misled command and not to respond to calls to enter a battle in which they will have to fight their Muslim brothers. [passage omitted]

Let the Iraqi Army be aware that anyone of them who gets killed in this war will be a loser awaiting [hell] fire. A man went to the messenger of God and said to him: O messenger of God, what would you say if a man comes to take my money. He said: Do not give him your money. He [the man] said: What would you say if he started to fight with me. He [the Prophet] said: Fight him. He said: What would you say if he killed me. He said: You will be a martyr. He said: What would you say if I killed him? He said: He will go to hell.

6. The meeting of Islamic ulema will not forget to praise Islam's greatest cause, namely the Palestine issue, and will always call for serious efforts to support and back it until Holy Jerusalem is liberated and the Palestinian people establish their state on their territory under the protection of Islamic teachings and values. It dissociates itself from the trading and outbidding in this issue like the Iraqi regime and other traders and bidders in slogans and causes of destiny.

7. The nation should maintain complete caution in relation to the propaganda campaigns organized by the Iraqi regime aimed at wickedly influencing Islamic awareness, as this regime has used "propaganda trickery" in devising and disseminating slogans and similar matters, such as its call for jihad against foreign forces, its call for the liberation of Palestine, and its lie about the liberation of the holy places. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime is the direct cause for the arrival of the foreign forces, due to its occupation of Kuwait and its threatening of the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. It is the right of the victims of aggression and those threatened by it to pursue the means for repulsing the aggression. [passage omitted]

8. The ulema call on the governments, peoples, minorities, expatriate communities, and groups of the Islamic world to learn a good lesson from what has happened and make this a reason for a sincere return to Almighty God and to adhere seriously and proficiently to His book and the sunnah of His Messenger, God's prayers and peace be upon him. [passage omitted]

9. The ulema meeting in Mecca expresses its gratitude and deep appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, for enabling the ulema and the preachers to consult and talk on its soil; rather in the holiest spot in it and in the world, noble Mecca. It also thanks it for its principled, firm, and resolute stand toward the aggression and for its noble embrace of the Kuwaiti people in their sudden ordeal.

10. The ulema also thank all the states, organizations, and peoples who have sided with right in the face of wrong, condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and its threatening of the Kingdom's security, and who have stood by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in defense of its security and holy places, whether through adopting resolutions and attitudes at international organizations and conferences, or through the dispatch of forces to back up the forces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to prevent Saddam Husayn continuing his aggression and tyranny. This is one of the highest duties in repulsing injustice and protecting souls, property, and honor, in implementation of God's decree "against them make ready, your strength to the utmost of your power." [Koranic verse]

We beseech God to spare our nation any sedition and evil, to guide its leaders to making his law the arbiter, to defeat the tyrants, and make their malice rebound on them and make the circle of evil encompass them. It is He who hears all things and is ever near. Praise be to God, cherisher and sustainer of the world.

Saudi King Fahd Gives Speech

LD1201231691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Speech by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz at a meeting with members of the Executive Council of the Islamic People's Council and participants in the Islamic Conference in Mecca on 12 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon the most honorable of prophets and missionaries; our Prophet Muhammad, prayers and blessings of God be upon him.

In these blessed moments, and on this blessed day, I have had the luck of meeting with brothers who are dear to me personally and to the whole Islamic nation. I am meeting with men who do not hide truth and who are beyond any reproach. They have met of their own will, following their own desire, and conditions have allowed them to meet in Holy Mecca.

We all know what happened a few months before the Iraqi invasion of a country dear to us—the State of Kuwait. There is no need to explain, as much has been explained in this area. I have already explained some of what one should explain about what happened a few days ago when I met the Arab, Islamic, and friendly armies.

It is regrettable that anyone in Baghdad should call these armies and their arrival in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states conquering armies. It is regrettable that anyone should overlook the cause of their arrival. This does not prevent saying that there has been an invasion by Iraq and an occupation of a neighboring Arab, Islamic country in a tricky and treacherous manner. There are forces that have come at the request of the Gulf states and at the invitation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in order to take part in the confrontation of the Iraqi aggression.

We were all surprised by what happened. Many people, including myself, have spoken clearly about the development of the issue for tens of years, or at least for a few years. I am one of those who is a contemporary of this issue. I never thought that matters would come to the point where an Arab country occupied a neighboring Arab country—an Islamic, peaceful country which showed only good, whether toward Iraq or other countries.

It was a big surprise for all Muslims throughout the world, and for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in particular, and for the dear Republic of Egypt headed by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, because President Husni Mubarak and myself lived out this problem when we realized that matters had begun to take a certain direction. We feared that matters would result in negative consequences. We never, at any moment, believed that matters would lead Iraq to attack the neighboring State of Kuwait, which has done great favors for Iraq—and favors belong to God. Iraq cannot deny this. Kuwait, for several years, has had big problems.

As for the position of Saudi Arabia regarding Iraq, this is known and does not need to be explained. If we go back over the last few years, we can see what President Saddam has said about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, frankly and openly, at any meeting and on any occasion. This is followed by many things that had persuaded us that Iraq could in no way harm Kuwait or the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The most important of these things—I will summarize them briefly—is when we noted military concentrations and maneuvers in the city of Fao. This drew our attention as military training. I sent His Highness Prince Sa'ud, the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, to the Iraqi president. We drew his attention to the remarkable things we were seeing. I never thought that these maneuvers and other things were preparation for aggression against Kuwait, and after that aggression against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi president stressed that this meant nothing in the final analysis. I never thought that one day—and this is what the Iraqi President said—force would be used in any way against Kuwait. The matter is one of rights. We believe that we have rights, and Kuwait believes that it has rights. These matters must be resolved with good manners. If things become difficult, then they may be submitted to the Arab league and international bodies, and matters would end there. [passage omitted]

The real cause of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is Iraq's greed for Kuwait; no more, no less. Iraq wants to expand to the Gulf states, starting with Kuwait, then the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, and perhaps Oman. There are signs indicating this. [passage omitted]

Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait. If Iraq has any legitimate rights; if he wants, we and his Arab brothers... [changes thought] let him choose among the leaders of the Arab nation, or from the Arab public figures whom he [words indistinct], and they will then judge between Iraq and Kuwait concerning the borders. [words indistinct] A country like Kuwait is an independent country, and it has been so for hundreds of years.

If the problem is a border problem, if the borders existing now are a bone of contention recognized neither by Kuwait nor by Iraq, then this is no problem. We all know that Iraq says that three-quarters of the Rumaylah oilfield are inside Iraq and one-quarter is inside Kuwait. Iraq claims this belongs entirely to Iraq. This too is no problem. On the other hand, the border posts Kuwait considered gates for anyone wanting to go from Iraq to Kuwait are not considered border points by Iraq. Iraq considers these gates just temporary, and says the borders of Iraq go beyond these limits. This also is no problem. This can be resolved in cordial and logical ways. If the two sides agree on something cordially then, I believe, this will be very good. But if there is no agreement, then let them use their Arab brothers as arbitrators. If they want the Arab League, with all its institutions, or a group of their Arab brothers, or someone from among the Islamic leaders, they can have who they want. Even if they do not want the Arab League or any of the Arab leaders or any of the Islamic leaders, then they have in front of them the International Court of Justice which was founded to deal with these matters.

The matter is not a matter of rights or a matter of the rights of Iraq that were usurped which Iraq wanted to recover by force and did so. The aim was for Iraq to take over an Arab, independent homeland, a member of the international community, a member of the Arab League, a homeland that has years of long history. [passage omitted]

Saddam has deliberately destroyed all Islamic ties and conventions, as well as the love and kinship between two Arab countries. He gave the worst example in the history of the Arab nation. There is nothing worse than this. [passage omitted]

Brothers, I know that your good meeting came on the basis of whether Iraq and the Iraqi president realizes the mistake. I believe that there is no harm. When the subject at issue is one's closest people, the people who the Iraqi people love most, the people who do not want Iraq to have any problem—there should be no hesitation for the Iraqi president to respond to the opinion of the whole world. Even those who were on the side of Iraq at some point have now started to say officially that they in no way condone Iraq's occupation of the State of Kuwait, disregarding everything else.

Therefore, the greatest duty of the Iraqi president—and the matter is in his hands—is to spare the blood of Iraqis and non-Iraqis. This, I believe, is the responsibility borne by the Iraqi president.

We in Saudi Arabia—God knows—definitely do not want any fighting to take place. We want to see wisdom and reason prevail, to see President Saddam Husayn issue his orders to the Iraqi Army in Kuwait, and to see the army surrounding the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia withdraw to Iraq. What harm is there in this? Quite the contrary, if he wants pride, and wants history to record anything for him, then there is an opportunity in front of him now. If, on the contrary, he shows loftiness, then he will bear responsibility. He will bear responsibility for what will result.

Brothers, there are some—I say this and this is really shameful—there are some who say that the forces in Saudi Arabia, in Saudi territory, must return to their own countries. They stop at this point. Why don't they give the reason? These forces have come at the request of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. They have not come by force. They came at our request, when we had declared officially one or two days after the invasion of Kuwait that we first wanted the Arab countries to send troops to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to protect Saudi Arabia against an Iraqi invasion. We said this because Iraq had a big army. We also asked the Islamic and the friendly states. We have not imposed our will on anyone and we are not costing anyone anything.

If all these Arab, Islamic, and friendly states have responded to the request of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, then I believe that this is the will of God. I do not believe that anyone has the right to say to Saudi Arabia: Why are you asking for help from Arab, Islamic forces, or forces from friendly states? They have no right, from the point of view of legal foundations, because we all know that the Prophet, prayers and blessings of God be upon him, had asked for help from the infidels, from the [word indistinct] why? For the good of Islam and Muslims. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn still has a choice in front of him. I am saying this frankly; I never want to see or draw pleasure from the destruction of the Iraqi Army and people. But what is the solution? What is the solution? The solution is in the hands of one man, one person. Today, and at this moment, Saddam Husayn can say to the Iraqi Army: Withdraw, and the Iraqi Army will withdraw. The matter is not in the hands of a government or a consultative council or a parliament or anyone else. It is in the hands of one person. [passage omitted]

Would an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait be more difficult than the return to the 1975 agreement with Iran? Or more difficult than giving back to Iran the territories occupied by the Iraqi Army, which Saddam claimed to be Iraq's? This is a matter for him. But what is the obstacle? What is the obstacle now keeping him from adopting logic and reason, going back to the correct path and announcing his withdrawal from Kuwait without any conditions? He would leave Kuwait and the problem would be finished and there would not be anything called fighting. [passage omitted]

I say from this podium: by God, we do not want the Iraqi people or the Iraqi Army to be harmed. But if [words indistinct] and if there is only fighting and self defense left, then this, I believe, is legitimate, a legitimate right. One has to defend oneself one way or another.

But what is really ridiculous and does not in fact need a response are allegations made in Iraq and elsewhere, which, when unreasonable, become unacceptable and harm those who come out with them. Indeed, some say that the two holy places have been taken over by the foreign forces, including their administration, and the organization of [words indistinct] the Prophet's mosque, holy al-Madinah and Mecca, which are said to be taken over by the girls from the West, who are organizing it, making arrangements, etc. You are saying this to whom? Holy al-Madinah and Mecca, the Holy House of God and the mosque of the Prophet of God are 1,500 km away from the problem, some two and one half hours flying. So you are telling lies to whom? Let Muslims come and see for themselves. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Rejects Soviet Proposal on Linkage

NC1301142191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Tunis, 13 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has rejected a Soviet offer to persuade Iraqi President Saddam Husayn not to link the Gulf crisis to the Palestinian problem on the condition that an international conference for peace in the Middle East will be held.

Palestinian sources say that 'Arafat informed the Soviet envoy who met him recently that the PLO no longer accepts promises that are not coupled with practical steps and demanded that the Soviet Union not abandon its pledges to support Palestinian rights.

The Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH said today that an American envoy met with some Palestinian leadership members before the Baker-'Aziz Geneva meeting and told them that the United States had adopted a proposal to convene an international conference two weeks after the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, provided the PLO persuades the Iraqi president not to link the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem.

Meets Tunisian President on Gulf

LD1201142291 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Carthage, Jan. 12 (MAP)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali Friday conferred here with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

At the end of the meeting 'Arafat said he discussed with President Ben Ali the steps that can be undertaken to find an Arab peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis under an international umbrella, especially after the meeting in Geneva of the U.S. and Iraqi delegations and the escalating tension tending to the war option.

'Arafat said he also paid tribute during the meeting to the Tunisian position in support of the intifadah.

In Tunis, Bassam Abu Sharif, advisor to the Palestinian president, said in an interview carried Friday by the Tunisian Al HURRIYA daily that the opportunity "is now offered Europe and the UN secretary general to effectively act for a political solution" to the Gulf crisis within the framework [words indistinct].

According to the Palestinian adviser, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will continue preparing the field for a political settlement, especially by increasing contacts with Western and Arab capitals concerned.

In Paris, head of the PLO political department Faruq Qaddumi said Friday at the end of a meeting with French foreign Minister Roland Dumas that there should be a package deal to resolve all the Middle East problems.

The Gulf crisis, Qaddumi said, is directly and fundamentally linked to the Israeli-Arab conflict. He added that France has an important role to play in finding a solution to the crisis, which can only be possible through serious diplomatic work and not threats.

Qaddumi had met Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz on Thursday in Geneva.

PNC Speaker Threatens U.S. Interests

NC1301104791 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Jan 91 p 2

[Excerpts] Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has said that the Palestinian leadership will lead the fighters to defend Iraq and its people. In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Shaykh al-Sa'ih, who is attending the meetings of the popular Islamic Conference, said: The PLO Executive Committee members, led by Yasir 'Arafat, will come to Baghdad as of 15 January to declare that the State of Palestine and the PLO—with all its factions—stand with Iraq and its leader Saddam Husayn and that they are in the same trench in which the Iraqis are fighting. [passage omitted]

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that if the United States insists on its aggression and imposes war on us, the nation will be called on to respond to this aggression, to confront it with all its might, and to fight in the trench of Saddam Husayn, because that is the trench of justice and faithfulness.

On the Islamic position on the American aggression, al-Sa'ih said: Muslims understand the dangers to them and consider the United States the primary enemy of the Arab and Islamic nation as a result of its aggressive positions and acts. He added that the Islamic position is being developed in an unprecedented manner in terms of confronting the American aggression and readiness to strike at the imperialists' interests if the confrontation starts. He added that the confrontation in this stage will be decisive and the world will see fedayeen and militant acts aimed against American interests wherever they are when the aggression is committed. And the United States will be responsible for the consequences of such an aggression.

Al-Sa'ih called on Muslims throughout the world to support Iraq in terms of their capabilities and positions and to strike at American interests everywhere, because they are the interests of the arrogant infidel tyrant who is unfaithful to the legitimate rights of the Islamic nation. [passage omitted]

Al-Sa'ih said that the United States should understand that it is interfering in internal Arab affairs by escalating the situation in the Gulf and trying to prevent unity between Iraq and Kuwait.

Islamic Jihad Calls for Strikes Against U.S.

NC1201170891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1652 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 12 Jan (INA)—The Islamic Jihad Movement—Bayt al-Maqdis has called for making Iraq's battle the battle of the faithful against the infidels and for proclaiming President Saddam Husayn the leader of the faithful all over the world.

In a statement issued in Amman today, the movement warned that it will strike at U.S. and other Western targets including targets belonging to countries participating in the aggression on Iraq.

The movement appealed to all Islamic and liberation movements not to spare any target their members can reach. It also called on all mujahidin everywhere to shoulder their responsibilities and carry out their duties.

Arab Liberation Front Reiterates Iraq Support

JN0401190091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1118 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jan (INA)—The Arab Liberation Front Central Committee has reiterated the Palestinian people's solidarity with the Iraqi people's confrontation of the American-Zionist conspiracy aimed at humiliating the Arabs, plundering their wealth, and desecrating Islamic sanctities.

In a statement issued on the 26th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, the front said that the Palestinian Arab people, who are waging one of the most honorable battles of national struggle against the Zionist occupation authorities, reiterate their support for the Iraqi people's defense of their homeland's sovereignty and the Arab nation's honor and fateful issues.

The statement added that Iraq's steadfastness against the imperialist-Zionist onslaught constitutes strong support for the valiant Palestinian intifadah and pan-Arab solidarity that places all the nation's interests in the service of the battle to liberate Palestine.

The statement said that the unjust blockade against Iraq has deprived its children of milk, food, and medicine, and that the plotting and aggression against have taken place because of this free country's rejection of all forms of hegemony and tyranny and its sincere and serious efforts to restore the position that the Arab nation has occupied throughout the ages.

The statement praised President Saddam Husayn's historic 12 August initiative and described it as embodying the concern of Iraq and the Arabs to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region and the world.

Believers Awaiting Iraqi Missiles To Attack

JN1301091891 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad in Jerusalem, said that the struggling armed groups will attack the evil gathering in the Arab nation, the United States, and Europe.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, he declared that the strugglers [mujahidin] have finalized their preparations to destroy anything their arms can reach such as U.S., European, and traitor Arab interests.

The leader of the Islamic Jihad in Jerusalem affirmed that the struggling armed groups in Cairo are ready to strike U.S. interests and those of its Arab and Western allies.

He said that the Palestinian believers are waiting for the Iraqi missiles to signal them to work for liberating the Islamic shrines.

He adds: It is a war that must take place whether it extends over a long period or ends in a short time. However, victory will be realized for the gathering of believers, God willing, and defeat is impossible because God supports Saddam Husayn since Saddam Husayn has resorted to God.

Shaykh al-Tamimi noted that President Saddam Husayn and his Arab Iraqi people and brave army have revived the hopes of the desperate people in the occupied land. They have been revitalized and injected with strength and power because they realize today that an Arab Muslim leader, Saddam Husayn, is determined to save them. His excellency has kindled the spirit of sacrifice in the souls of all Arabs and Muslims.

He affirmed that President Saddam Husayn's declaration on liberating Jerusalem and the holy Arab territories has struck the Jews with fear, panic, and gloom; it has rekindled the fire of the intifadah and zeal among the oppressed Palestinian people. Some Jewish parties have started demanding negotiations with the PLO because, as declared by Israeli television, they cannot bear the life of knives and the power of the Iraqis.

The leader of the Islamic Jihad in Jerusalem concluded his interview saying: There is no way to avoid severing all evil hands, whether Arab or Western, to allow the good hands to prosper and well-being to spread throughout the Arab and Islamic nation.

Qaddumi Interviewed on Geneva Meeting, Gulf

JN1301110091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1740 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf), head of the PLO Political Department, by George Qurdahi; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Qurdahi] Brother Abu-al-Lutf, during the Geneva meeting between James Baker and Tariq 'Aziz, you were close to the talks and were following up the details of all that was taking place. Now, after the failure of these talks, how does Abu-al-Lutf assess this failure, and how does he view the next stage in the region?

[Qaddumi] The two sides were expected to reach these results. However, it was also expected that the talks would be short, but they were longer than expected. This is a positive sign. This means that both sides listened to each other. There were lengthy talks on the details and results of the crisis. We hope that such meetings will be repeated. However, we regret that the United States did not adopt this approach in the past, instead, it has left this until the UN Security Council's resolution putting an end to diplomatic means and giving the United States the right to use military means. It was clear that the United States has not changed its approach. Regrettably, it is still using the language of threats and provocations. It does not try to understand the security needs of the region. It ignores the Palestine question. It does not want any linkage between the Middle East issue with the Gulf crisis. There had been the issue of siege against Cuba which was carried out by Kennedy. However, there had also been an agreement to remove missiles from Cuba and Turkey...

[Qurdahi, interrupting] and the problem was resolved.

[Qaddumi] and the problem was resolved. However, it seems that the United States insists on...

[Qurdahi, interrupting] Abu-al-Lutf, let us go back a little bit to the Gulf crisis. Today, how do you assess the chances of peace and war in the Gulf?

[Qaddumi] Based on the time factor, the issue of peace and war in the Gulf has been linked to the Middle East crisis. It is not easy to resolve the Gulf crisis without taking into consideration a resolution of the major issue, the mother of problems, the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Qurdahi] Abu-al-Lutf, you held a lengthy meeting with Mr. Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva. What did you deduce from his talks with you, and do you believe that the war will break out, or do you believe that Iraq will come up with an initiative to avert war in the region?

[Qaddumi] From a position of self-confidence and capability, Iraq does not seek war. It wants peace. However, at the same time, it wants justice for all. This was clear in brother Tariq 'Aziz' statements, who said that the international legitimacy must be applied to all sides, justice for all sides, and fairness to all sides. However, we must also avoid dealing with double standards, and he pointed to this when he said: Had all the region's issues been tackled in an international deal, then Iraq would have cooperated with the United States and all the states that desire a just peace.

[Qurdahi] Only a few days remain until the UN Security Council's 15th January deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. What can be done, and in your opinion, is anything much left to be done within these few days to save peace in the Gulf?

[Qaddumi] Why should we put ourselves in an impasse or in a corner? There are UN Security Council resolutions that have not been implemented for 40 years or more. Why is this resolution different? Why should we say that we need four days to exert efforts. This means that there is an American threat.

[Qurdahi] There is no doubt.

[Qaddumi] So long as there is an American threat, then this threat must be confronted. We have only one choice, to defend ourselves. We will fight for our cause. Had the American forces not been present [in the region], the problem would have been resolved within the Arab League. During the meeting [not further identified], I pointed out that there had been Arab conflicts that were resolved by the Arab League. In 1970, a conflict between the Palestinians and Jordanians, during which there had been many victims, tens of thousands, but neither did King Husayn nor us resorted to the UN Security Council. Late President [Jamal] 'Abd-al-Nasir, may God have mercy on his soul, called for an Arab summit, which was attended by [late Saudi] King Faysal and others, and the problem was resolved. However, before the Arab League adopted any resolution, America had a plan to present the issue to the UN Security Council. Despite this, one day after the UN Security Council resolution was adopted, an Arab resolution was adopted and contained a rejection of any foreign intervention in the region.

[Qurdahi] Do you still believe that there is a chance for an Arab initiative within the next few remaining days, or a joint Arab-European initiative?

[Qaddumi] President 'Arafat has made strenuous efforts from the beginning. Even tens of years ago [as heard], he succeeded in reaching solutions to this crisis. During the Arab summit, he presented a Palestinian proposal to form a good offices committee. However, regrettably, this proposal was not presented for voting, because the chairman of the summit, President Mubarak did not present it. Moreover, we sought to hold a meeting between our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and our Iraqi brothers to reach an agreement, especially since they are the big brothers who can find solutions to this issue. All sides responded to brother Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] call. Regrettably, however, the United States made a great clamor about it. There had also been positive statements by Prince Sultan [Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz]. So, the United States does not want an Arab solution. The United States wants to play havoc with the destinies of this region. It has come with its forces frankly and clearly as if it has imposed itself on the region. We must be aware that war [will be] in the Arab states and against the Arab resources. The Arab resources will be harmed, and the Arab citizen will be harmed. We must work to stop this war and to resolve this problem among ourselves as Arabs. As it has been said, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia relinquished Tiran and Sanafir to Egypt for the sake of Arab security. This is the Arab position that we want from all sides. Only then, will security prevail and things return to normal.

[Qurdahi] Abu-al-Lutf, as I understood from you, you are currently on a European tour, so, what do you have to say to the Europeans?

[Qaddumi] First, in the past, we presented an initiative to Presidents Mitterrand and Gorbachev during their meeting in Paris. We also presented proposals, including a mechanism to implement this initiative. We tell the Europeans that security and peace in the Middle East region is of interest to the European states, and that the Arab region is adjacent to Europe, and therefore, Europe cannot do without the resources or markets in the region, nor can it do without dealing with this region. America is far away. It is not that we want to drive a wedge among the allies. However, these are facts that must be stated. So, it is in Europe's interests to realize that a peaceful solution to this crisis is necessary, and therefore, it must put pressure on the United States to stop these hostile intentions against the Arab nation. Europe must also work to resolve the Palestine question. The issue is not that of linkage. However, the United States must change its biased approach toward Israel. The Jewish emigration in Palestine has judaized the occupied Palestinian territories. Shamir refused to withdraw and said we want them [the territories] to establish Greater Israel. So, how do the Americans expect us to accept this situation? They want to impose their stands on us. It is true that we are small states, but the will to fight and defend ourselves and the dignity of the Arab nation is great. We will defend ourselves, and I believe that victory is the lot of the believers.

[Qurdahi] Abu-al-Lutf, the situation is dangerous and even more dangerous in the occupied Palestinian territories. If war erupts in the Gulf, how do you think or expect things will develop in the occupied territories?

[Qaddumi] There are some who like to depict events differently. I firmly believe that if war erupts, all the expectations made by some will totally change because an Arab will certainly stand by the side of another Arab. The third world, which feels that it is oppressed and suffering from poverty, will also stand by the side of the oppressed, the small countries, and the Arabs because they feel the United States, which occupied Panama and Grenada, is trying to impose itself on the world and start a new era of imperialism. Therefore, we felt during my tour of Latin America, Europe, and Asia and during my brother Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] tour of Africa and

Asia that the battle is between the south and north. Matters will develop to this extent and the United States will not triumph.

[Qurdahi] Abu-al-Lutf, has the occupation of Kuwait, in your opinion, harmed the Palestinian issue or vice versa?

[Qaddumi] Iraq's military intervention in Kuwait, be it an intervention of one or 100 inches, they became face to face with the petroleum empire. [sentence as heard] This does not mean that we agree to any military intervention by any Arab country, but the circumstances and events dictated such an intervention. This means that Iraq was face to face with the petroleum empire. The United States did not come to the Gulf to defend Kuwait's independence, democracy, human rights, or good neighborliness. The United States came to protect its oil interests. It knows that after 20 years Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates will be the ones possessing the most oil reserves in the world. It imports oil worth no less than $80-90 billion. Hence, it did not come to protect Kuwait's independence. It came to protect oil and keep its low prices in order to exploit the Arab wealth. If the matter had been left to the Arab League, we would have solved the problem and Kuwait would, as I have said, have restored its independence and Iraq would have resolved its problem. However, it was obvious from its memorandums—and I emphasize the 17 May memo—that the United States wanted to maintain this hostile military presence in the region following the Iraq-Iran war in order to continue its control of the oil wells. We must solve this problem among ourselves, we the Arabs, and should not seek the help of the foreigner or the Security Council.

[Qurdahi] In any case, the Americans do not hide that one of their aims is to strike at the military capability Iraq represents in the region.

[Qaddumi] They presented four demands to Iraq: To reduce its army to a quarter of a million; not to press for higher oil prices and oil production; and not to develop its deterrent weapons, that is, the lethal weapons, and ban them. The fourth demand was that Iraq should agree to resolving the Arab-Israeli coinflict within the framework of the Shamir-Baker initiative. The issue then is not one of Kuwait; it is one of Arab security. This is why we held an Arab summit conference in Baghdad. We are the ones who worked for this conference. We are not biased. We want Arab relations to be in harmony with one another. But we should never seek the help of the foreigner to resolve our problems. There was a problem: The conflict between us and our Syrian brothers was solved at a summit conference chaired by al-Sadat in 1976. In 1970, it was chaired by President 'Abd-al-Nasir to resolve the problem between us and our Jordanian brothers. There were problems between Algeria and Morocco and these were resolved within the Arab League. Why have the Americans hastened to present the issue to the Security Council? These are premeditated U.S. intentions, especially after the failure of the U.S. efforts for a political settlement which they claimed to be exerting. Quite frankly, we did not believe these were sincere and serious efforts, but we wanted to tell the world that we have presented everything and that the United States wants to liquidate the Palestine question, and this was proven. They have then placed before us one option, which is self-defense.

[Qurdahi] One last question, Abu-al-Lutf, under the current threat to both Iraq and the region, and in order to preserve Iraq's military might, do you not think that it will be wise at present to withdraw from Kuwait?

[Qaddumi] Why is Iraq keeping this great power after the Gulf war has ended? Iraq does not need this power to interfere in any Arab country. Iraq fought eight years in defense of Arab security at the eastern gate and in defense of the Gulf states. You know that Iran annexed three islands to it. Iraq was defending the security of the Gulf. It signed four agreements with Saudi Arabia. It used to tell us that any encroachment on the independence of these states is an encroachment on Iraq's security. I heard President Saddam say this in 1978. Hence, there was no intention to interfere. But, in fact, there was this pressure which President Saddam mentioned at the Arab summit. He said there is an economic war against us. Why do we not abide by OPEC agreements on production and prices? We have debts to pay. They are fighting us by withholding technology from us. Iraq's might is for you, Arab brothers. Let us demarcate the borders here and there. Why have we signed four agreements with Saudi Arabia? Why have we laid an oil pipeline to the Red Sea? So that Saudi Arabia will feel that we will not harm it. He said this at the summit conference. He said in 1978 he will defend every Gulf state. I myself heard him say that. Therefore, it is illogical that by this intervention, Iraq seeks to attack an Arab state. That was a test of the U.S. intentions and it was proven that the United States does not want to besiege Iraq only, but to liquidate the Palestine question as well.

[Qurdahi] Thank you, Abu-al-Lutf.

Algeria

Attack on U.S., Jewish Interests Worldwide Urged

LD1201154191 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] [Announcer] The fundamentalists of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] in Algeria have, for the first time, emerged from the reserve they have been observing since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. During yesterday's Friday sermon, the two main leaders of the FIS called for a holy war against the United States and the Jews. Details from Anne (Desseize):

[(Desseize)] A war in the Gulf could be considered a war against Algeria, said Abassi Madani at the Mosque of Kouba in the outskirts of Algiers yesterday. After having observed a long silence on the development of the situation in the Gulf, Belhaj and his colleague Madani came out to ask the 6,000 loyal supporters gathered for the prayer, as well as all the FIS sympathizers, to take action. To the question of what to do at the critical moment, the answer is simple: Attack U.S. and Jewish interests anywhere in the world. In attacking Saddam, the Americans and their allies aim at depriving the Muslims of the Iraqi military potential, useful for the forthcoming decisive war which the Muslims will wage against the Jews, said Ali Belhaj, referring to and once again interpreting the Koran as he wishes.

Three days after the failure of Geneva talks, war is the number one topic in newspapers' headlines. Certainly, one feels an increasing concern among the population which, however, has not shown clear pro-Arab and thus pro-Iraqi feelings since the beginning of the conflict. Almost the entire party agrees with the Algerian diplomacy especially now with the focus beng on comprehensive negotiations which would include the Palestinian issue.

FLN Calls for Demonstrations Against Gulf War

LD1201194191 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The FLN [National Liberation Front] Political Bureau has issued a statement on the Gulf crisis in which it calls on the various governments and international and popular organizations to continue their efforts in order to prevent a destructive war. The statement adds that what weakens the meaning of international legitimacy is the fact that most of the forces which have been massed in the Arab region belong to states which have lost their credibility among Arab and Islamic peoples because of their continuous collusion and bias on Arab issues dealt with by the United Nations.

The FLN Political Bureau calls on all Algerian parties and bodies to organize popular demonstrations on the first day of war in the Gulf, hoping that the Arab and Islamic bodies and organizations will adopt this initiative.

President Discusses Gulf With Party Leaders

LD1301225491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received at the Presidency of the Republic today Said Saadi, president of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD]. On leaving the president's office, the RCD leader made a statement to the press, in which he said:

[Begin Saadi recording] We have talked in complete frankness with the president of the republic about the Batna incidents [10 Jan attack on RCD marchers by Islamic Salvation Front members] and the acts of violence that took place in the country. [end recording]

Dr. Saadi added that he hopes the state will shoulder its full responsibility with regard to the security of the citizens in the exercise of their right to free expression; otherwise, he said, we will have to face charged elections, because some people resort to violence, and this would lead to problems. Dr. Saadi added: We have also discussed the Gulf crisis; you know that there is a direct relationship between the situation in the region and the stability of Algerian society. Because we are concerned, Said Saadi said, we agreed on the need for the parties to come out with a unified stand.

President Chadli Bendjedid also received Hachemi Cherif, to congratulate him on his election as coordinator of the Socialist Vanguard Party. Upon leaving the office of the president, Hachemi Cherif made a statement on the topics discussed:

[Begin recording] [Cherif] The meeting was extremely useful. We can say that the Middle East question, the Gulf crisis, occupied a large part of our discussions and exchange of views. This is because of the great importance of this crisis to our people. I and every one of you are sensitive to what is happening in the Gulf: a threat to peace, a threat to peoples' right to self-determination, a threat to the social and economic interests of the Arab peoples, and indeed a threat to world peace should war break out. We do not wish war, and do all we can to avert war. The consequences of war will be extremely negative, even to our people. Every Algerian man and woman should be aware of the gravity of this situation.

[Unidentified correspondent] What solution for the Gulf crisis does the Socialist Vanguard Party envisage?

[Cherif] With regard to the Gulf crisis, we have only one idea—namely, that we must exert out utmost effort at the level of state institutions, and at the level of the masses, to avert war. For if war were to break out, the situation would be very difficult. For this reason our first slogan is: No to war. However, if war were to break out, we will always say: No to war. [end recording]

President Receives Urgent Message From Mubarak

LD1301221191 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid this afternoon received Ibrahim Yusri, the ambassador of the Egyptian Republic in Algeria, who delivered to him an urgent message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak dealing with the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

Foreign Minister Comments on U.S. Senate Vote

LD1301001391 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] We have Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali with us. Mr. Minister, perhaps we could have your reaction to the decision of the U.S. Senate this evening, by 53 votes to 46, to call on George Bush to halt the sanctions and to halt diplomacy. In fact, it is a green light for war that the Senate has now given George Bush. Perhaps it is not enough, but it is a green light. The congress has to agree, I believe?

[Begin Ghazali recording] I believe it was hard to expect the Senate or the Congress, which are the representatives of the people, in business such as this, to be able to do anything other than back their president. Second, you spoke about a decision to end the diplomatic process, but has the United States really made use of a diplomatic process so far? Since the beginning of the crisis the Western strategy in general, and the U.S. strategy in particular, has simply consisted of gradual preparations and, I would not wish to say irreversibly, the logic of war. [passage omitted] [end recording]

APS Says Geneva Talks Used To Justify War

LD1201162891 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 12 Jan (APS)—The failure of the meeting between the foreign ministers of the United States and Iraq in Geneva yesterday [as received] has not come as a surprise to observers who have been following developments and attitudes in the Gulf for more than five months.

It was clear from the start that the U.S. proposal to meet the Iraqis less than a week from the UNSC [United Nations Security Council] deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait was aimed primarily at preparing the international atmosphere for the start of military operations against Iraq, and not to search for a real peaceful solution to the crisis. The United States anounced that it would be presenting in the "last chance" meeting a "final warning" to Baghdad to withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Kuwait.

In other words, Baker entered the talks with Tariq 'Aziz with a premeditated intention to make the meeting a failure, so that he could say to the American people and the world that the U.S. administration had exerted every effort in order to avoid the war and disaster hanging over the region. The failure of the Geneva meeting was a logical result of the policy of threats and the big stick pursued by Washington since the start of the crisis on 2 August 1990.

The U.S. from the start and over the last five months has not tried the political approach to the crisis in the search for a solution. Rather, it has resorted to the massing of the biggest military force since World War II to fight a small Third World country. It seems that the biggest mistake comitted by the United States is that the tone of threats did not frighten the Iraqis, as they thought it would.

The fact is that Iraq, despite the many statements, has not finally shut the door to the reaching of a peaceful solution, on the condition that this solution should emcompass all the disputes of the region, foremost Palestine. Only yesterday 'Aziz announced, in a reply to a question on the possibility of his country's withdrawal from Kuwait, that "if the world deals with all the problems of the region with the same standard and principles, Iraq will make a positive contribution".

Thus Iraq does not reject, contrary to the prevailing belief, the principle of withdrawal from Kuwait. It rejects, however, the return to the situations prevailing in the region before 2 August 1990. Tariq 'Aziz believes that the return to the status quo ante without taking into consideration developments in the region and other disputes means that Iraq would remain threatened, encircled, and boycotted, in addition to the political, psychological, and propaganda campaigns against it. Thus what is the difference between withdrawal and nonwithdrawal in this case?

The question remains: Is the U.S. and NATO military presence in the Gulf really aimed at liberating Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, or does it have other objectives, not least the domination and control of the oil resources in this strategic region? It has become clear that domination of this region and its wealth inevitably means the destruction of the Iraqi military, and even the economic strength which is considered an obstacle to the implementation of such a neocolonialist plan.

The recent Geneva meeting has shown that the Iraq and U.S. sides are aware of the dangers of possible war in the Gulf. The losses and damage caused by this war would be greater than any temporary or even long term gains. Wisdom thus dictates that the dialogue should continue. Yet it is naivete to see that about half a million U.S. and allied soldiers have come merely to liberate Kuwait and recover its sovereignty.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Addresses Assembly on Gulf

NC1301200391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening delivered a statement on developments in the Gulf crisis before a joint session of the Arab Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and National Security Committees of the People's Assembly.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Gulf crisis poses a challenge to our Arab nation, as it is the first time one Arab state took the step of invading another, occupying its territory, and removing the legitimate regime there, thus setting a dangerous precedent within the Arab community—a precedent that violates international law, as well as the provisions enshrined in all international and Arab charters and norms.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid added that Egypt's position on the current crisis and its decision to dispatch Egyptian troops to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were not adopted in a vacuum. These measures were taken to give a concrete form to Egypt's previous commitments which are aimed at keeping the peace and rejecting aggression, he said. He went on to say that the Egyptian Armed Forces, which have always had the honor of defending Arab causes, currently are continuing to play their role in defending a fraternal Arab state whose sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity are threatened.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the presence of these troops in the Gulf bolsters the Egyptian political moves that seek to liberate Kuwait. He added that President Mubarak spelled out the role of these forces when he described this role as a defensive one aimed at protecting Saudi Arabia and all Arab peoples in the Gulf region.

Somali Foreign Minister Comments on Talks

NC1301171991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—Somali Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Mohamed Adan stated that the results of his talks with Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, as well as other Egyptian officials, were satisfactory.

At a news conference this afternoon, he added that his visit to Cairo is aimed at enhancing bilateral ties and discussing the situation in Somalia in light of the current events. He said Somalia has requested humanitarian aid from Egypt, and that it was not seeking any military assistance from Egypt or any other country. He added that the Somali Government is in control of the situation in Mogadishu and that it does not need military assistance.

The Somali minister said Egypt has expressed its willingness to send aid to Somalia, which needs food and medical assistance, as well as blankets, clothes, and other forms of aid.

Adan asserted that government institutions in the Somali capital are under control of the government. He added that there are elements that steal, loot, and kill. He went on to say that the situation is normal outside the capital.

The Somali foreign affairs minister said that the Somali People's Assembly will meet later today, adding that reconciliation committees made up of various groups from all tribes have been formed. He said these committees will meet today to discuss the situation in the country.

Adan said that Somalis must first meet together. He said that if there is a need, we will seek mediation. While he said there is no Saudi mediation effort, he noted that Somalia has sought humanitarian aid from Saudi Arabia. He added that Egypt expressed a readiness to offer humanitarian assistance. We expect further assistance, he said.

The Somali foreign affairs minister asserted that the problem being experienced by Somalia today is an economic one caused by a shortage of foodstuffs and energy, even at the embassies. Many foreigners have left the capital. No Somali official or minister has so far left Mogadishu, the foreign minister said.

The Somali foreign affairs minister asserted that Somali President Siad Barre is now at Somalia Palace. He affirmed that the president has not fled anywhere, and that he leaves his office only to inspect the situation in the capital. He pointed out that removal of President Barre from power should be through the use of legitimate constitutional channels.

AL-AHRAM on Bush Statement Implications

NC1301091391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—In their editorials today, the Cairo dailies focus on the international anticipation, tension, and concern caused by one stubborn person, in whose mind all visions have been confused, as he approaches the moment of war and annihilation with his people. Although the decisive moment is nearing, with the expected expiration of the deadline for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, this man insists on his hostility toward all logic and common sense.

AL-AHRAM writes that U.S. President George Bush pointed out that 15 January is not the definite date for war, but rather the last day on which Saddam Husayn can choose between war and peace. However, the Iraqi president will continue to be the sole controller of the region's destiny until Tuesday, 15 January, the paper says.

AL-AHRAM adds that it can be concluded from Bush's statement that peace endeavors will continue to run parallel with preparations for war. While mid-January legalizes the use of force, it also makes room for final efforts to reach a peaceful solution. However, the paper adds, peaceful efforts will be more inevitable and serious on both sides this time in view of the awesome situation.

The paper notes that the 15 January deadline provided room for a security margin for Iraq. However, once the deadline expires, Iraq's actions will be marked by excitement, alarm, and fear because of its vulnerability to a strike at any moment. This, the paper writes, may lead Iraq to a miscalculation. It might be tempted to launch the first strike, thinking it is a preventive measure, when it means the beginning of the end for Iraq. [passage omitted]

Official Views Safeguarding Vital Installations

NC1201231691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa announced today that a high-level security committee has been formed representing all branches of the Armed Forces and various security organs to formulate a comprehensive approach to safeguarding all vital locations in Egypt in case war erupts in the Gulf region.

Musa said this committee had held a number of meetings over the past two days to discuss its plan of action, and it will continue its meetings as the deadline set for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait nears in order to follow the situation first hand and discuss the security implications of the Gulf crisis.

Speaking at a symposium at the Cairo book fair, the minister said that the state has provided all possible resources to this committee to enable it to carry out its duty in the best possible way. He expressed the hope that the Gulf crisis would end peacefully, sparing the region the destructive consequences of military operations.

'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that security organs have arrested the members of 14 terrorist groups of various nationalities since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He added that these groups attempted to infiltrate the country through various points with forged passports. Dollars, weapons, and plans for specific actions to cause disturbances and destabilize security in Egypt were seized from them. He said that these groups admitted that the missions they were charged with carrying out were in retaliation for Egypt's stand on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The interior minister reiterated that Egyptian security organs are alert to any attempt to harm security and stability in Egypt. He noted that Iraq has already announced that in case of war in the Gulf, it would carry out retaliatory operations against the countries that have not supported it in its invasion of Kuwait. He added: We expect other terrorist groups to arrive in the country, but the security organs are fully alert to such attempts.

He also stressed that the security organs are continuing their efforts to eliminate the phenomenon of drug trafficking. He said that a vessel was seized in Alexandria today carrying 1.5 tons of drugs. The operation was carried out with the cooperation of the naval forces after an exchange of fire. The ship captain was arrested and two of its crew were killed.

He also stressed that the security organs are firmly confronting extremist and terrorist groups. He noted that the assassins of former People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub were members of extremist terrorist groups. Investigations have revealed that they are Egyptians who were trained in such terrorist actions in an Islamic country.

Regarding the law on parties and the possibility of establishing new ones, the interior minister said that parties cannot be established on a religious basis so that Egypt does not turn into another Lebanon. He added: The law clearly stipulates that the aims and programs of any new party should be different from those of the existing parties.

He appealed to citizens to cooperate with the police to restore discipline to Egyptian streets.

'Abd-al-Majid on Perez de Cuellar Mission

NC1201224791 Cairo MENA in English 2040 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, Jan 12 (MENA)—Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that Egypt is supporting the U.N. secretary general's initiative on the Gulf crisis.

He said Iraq has committed an aggression on Kuwait and the solution is the respect of the U.N. resolutions and pullout from Kuwait.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid urged Iraq to respond to U.N. Security Council resolutions and withdraw from Kuwait.

On the recent visit to Cairo by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, he said Baker briefed President Husni Mubarak on the Gulf developments. President Mubarak said Egypt was supporting the U.N. Security Council resolutions and attempts to reach a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis before the U.N. deadline for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait expires, he added.

Reportage on Secretary Baker's Egypt Visit

'Abd-al-Majid Previews Visit

NC1101163991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Cairo later today is part of the intensive contacts and consultations between parties concerned following the recent Geneva meeting.

In a statement to MENA, 'Abd-al-Majid said that Baker's visit also falls within the framework of briefing President Husni Mubarak at this extremely sensitive time on the outcome of the recent talks in Geneva and the U.S. secretary of state's meetings with EC leaders to discuss the steps to be taken given the outcome of his meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

He noted that the phase through which the Gulf crisis is now passing causes concern, particularly as we are nearing the 15 January deadline set for Iraq by Security

Council Resolution 678 and since the resolution's clauses will then go into effect. He added that this requires consultations with all concerned parties, specifically Egypt in light of its present role.

Baker Arrives in Cairo

NC1101200691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1957 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Cairo this evening for a one-day visit to Egypt. He previously visited Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Mubarak Receives Baker

NC1201095591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0929 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the presidential headquarters this morning.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's Office for Political Affairs; and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner attended the meeting.

Baker arrived in Cairo yesterday on a visit to Egypt as part of his current tour of a number of Arab and foreign countries.

'Abd-al-Majid, Baker Hold News Conference

NC1201142791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker briefed President Husni Mubrak on his recent meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Baker following the latter's talks with President Mubarak, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the talks involved a review of the efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis.

Baker said that the United States and the Soviet Union have coordinated their policies since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. Baker said that the Soviet position on an international conference for peace in the Middle East is well known; namely, that such a conference should be held when the time is appropriate. Baker said that he does not think that the time is now appropriate for holding such a conference.

The U.S. secretary of state said that the UN Security Council resolution setting 15 January as a deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait is a serious resolution. Baker said that he discussed future moves with President Mubarak and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid.

At the beginning of the news conference, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that James Baker briefed President Mubarak on the Geneva talks and that President Mubarak reiterated Egypt's well-known position. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: We are going through a critical and difficult period and we hope that the efforts being made by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar will achieve fruitful results. We believe that all efforts should be made to achieve what we all agreed upon, including the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, hopefully before the set date expires.

Responding to questions on Soviet President Gorbachev's proposals on the Gulf crisis, James Baker said: Since the start of the crisis, the United States and the Soviet Union have been working together at both the bilateral level and through the United Nations to attain a peaceful solution to the crisis and also to realize a just and principled solution that would end the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait without any reward to the aggression. Baker added: This Soviet and U.S. policy has not changed since the beginning of the crisis.

Baker went on to say: I still support the Soviet Union's efforts in this regard. I did support what it did on 3 August when I had talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Sheverdnadze in Moscow. We condemned the aggression and we called for ending it. I cannot give you details about the ongoing exchanges between the two countries' leaders.

Asked if he supports an international peace conference, Baker said: This is a question based on assumption. However, my answer to this question is that our stand is well known to the Egyptian journalists, who are here now. The United States declared long ago that an international Middle East peace conference for discussing the Palestinian-Israeli issue could be useful if it is held at the appropriate time and with good preparations. It is evident that the present time is not appropriate because this would lead to the linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Middle East issue and this would give the impression that the aggressor has been rewarded. Also, it will not stabilize matters in the Middle East, and what will happen is actually the opposite. This is our stand on this issue.

Asked whether the door remains open following the failure of the Geneva talks, Baker said: I believe that the door is still open. However, this door can be opened from Baghdad. [sentence as received] As to whether it is possible to achieve a peaceful solution, this, in fact, is up to the Baghdad Government. I said earlier that time is running out fast and we look to the deadline that expires at midnight on 15 January to see whether the agreement reached by the international community will be achieved on the night of 15 January.

Baker pointed out that this deadline is real and serious. He added: Once again we join our Egyptian friends and call on Iraq to withdraw so that we may achieve a peaceful solution.

Asked about whether Egypt will remain in the alliance if Israel retaliates for an Iraqi aggression against it, Baker said: Let me respond to this by saying that, during my tour of the area, I discussed this matter with our partners in the alliance. I can say that the United States is very satisfied with these discussions with regard to your question about the right to self-defense.

The journalist [not further identified] asked Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to respond to the same question. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: President Mubarak was asked the same question by the U.S. station CNN and he responded to it last night.

Regarding the UN secretary general's mission, Baker said: Certainly, we will listen to what the UN secretrary general will have to say after he concludes his mission. I sent a letter to the UN secretary general before he embarked on his mission in which I expressed my ideas and views in light of my six-hour meeting with Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva. We expect the UN secretary general to fill us in on the results of his mission.

In response to the question: "Why do you not take the initiative and go to Baghdad to learn their views on the spot," Baker said: The U.S. President proposed 15 different dates for me to go to Baghdad in December and January. The Iraqi leadership made clear efforts to circumvent the deadline set by the Security Council. The Iraqi leadership insisted that the only date on which I could go [to Baghdad] was 12 January. These efforts were clearly evasive. For this reason, President Bush withdrew his offer which Saddam Husayn had earlier rejected.

Responding to a question about his talks in Cairo, Baker said: Here in Cairo, as in all the states I visited, we discussed with our allies the next step. We also viewed the situation in general and we especially discussed the fact that the 15 January deadline is real and we are serious about it. As we said last night, we hope that the Iraqi Government will not make another miscalaculation.

Baker Departs 12 Jan

NC1201121991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a one-day visit.

During his stay, Baker held talks with President Husni Mubarak and Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, within the framework of his current tour of a number of the region's countries.

Baker's visit to the region comes after the failure of his recent talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva to urge Iraq to implement the Security Council resolutions calling for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Yemeni Foreign Minister on 'Surprise' Visit

NC1101224791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Iryani arrived in Cairo tonight on a surprise visit to Egypt that had not been announced in advance. The visit will last for two days.

On his arrival, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani stated that he is carrying a message from Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak that is connected with the current circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing. He expressed happiness at visiting Egypt.

Asked to assess the situation following the Geneva meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, he replied that at this time, silence is golden.

President Mubarak is due to receive the Yemeni foreign minister tomorrow morning.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, the Yemeni ambassador to Egypt, and some of the embassy staff received the Yemeni foreign minister at the airport.

Conveys Message to Mubarak

NC1201113891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd- al-Karim al-Iryani has announced that he conveyed to President Husni Mubarak a message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, dealing with the current situation in the region and with the way to bypass the Gulf crisis we are currently experiencing.

In statements to reporters after his meeting with President Mubarak today, Al-Iryani said he will return to his country today with President Mubarak's reply to the Yemeni president.

On Yemen's vision of the solution to the Gulf crisis, he said: I came here to discuss this and I cannot elaborate.

He emphasized that Yemen has always called for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and did not waver in demanding the withdrawal and solving the crisis that led us to where we stand now.

Commenting on UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's mission in Iraq and the world call for peace he is conveying to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, he emphasized that Yemen's view is that the peaceful solution must be the only way to end the Gulf crisis and noted that any measure leading to this solution will have our support.

Asked if he was optimistic after meeting with President Mubarak, he said: I came to Cairo optimistic and will leave optimistic. When asked if he is optimistic that war will not break out in the Gulf, he said: Yes, yes. I am optimistic.

Regarding Yemen's stand on the linkage between the Middle East issue and the Gulf crisis, he stressed that the Palestinian issue is the Arabs' primary cause and that dealing with it should be with the same zeal and enthusiasm with which the the international commuity treated the Kuwaiti issue.

He said his country accepts the solution to the Palestinian issue through any means accepted by the international community whether before or after the Gulf crisis, and added that what is important is the commitment that the issue will be resolved.

The Yemeni foreign minister noted that contacts between Egypt and Yemen have not stopped since the recent Arab summit in Cairo. He asserted that coordination and contacts have never stopped. They have various channels and a contact does not have to be in person, he said.

Departs 12 Jan

NC1201175791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani left Cairo for Sanaa this afternoon following a brief visit of 18 hours during which he delivered a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to President Husni Mubarak on the current situation in the region.

He was seen off at the airport by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Waldheim Arrives for Talks with Mubarak 11 Jan

NC1101181391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Austrian President Kurt Waldheim arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a short visit during which he will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on developments in the Gulf crisis.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and other senior officials received the Austrian president at the airport.

The Austrian president made a statement to reporters on his arrival. He described the situation in the Gulf as very dangerous and said that the existing signs do not encourage optimism, particularly as very few days remain before the deadline. He expressed hope, however, that a peaceful solution to the crisis will be reached.

Waldheim said that his talks with President Husni Mubarak on 12 January will deal with the Gulf crisis and that he is looking forward to meeting with President Mubarak, whom he has known for years.

Asked to assess the mission to be carried out in Iraq by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in light of the fact that he previously held the same post, President Waldheim said that Perez de Cuellar's task is not easy and that he believes, in light of his previous experience at the United Nations, that the secretary general's mission will be carried out in the context of the UN Security Council resolutions. He said he telephoned Perez de Cuellar yesterday.

Waldheim expressed hope that Perez de Cuellar will succeed in making a contribution to the difficult process of attaining peace.

He concluded his statement by noting that it is necessary to make all possible efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis although the situation, in general, is not promising.

Waldheim held a brief round of talks with Prime Minister Sidqi at the airport and then Dr. Sidqi accompanied the Austrian president to his residence at al-Qubbah Palace.

President Waldheim is accompanied by a delegation that includes the secretary general of the Austrian presidency and a number of senior aides.

Meets Mubarak on Gulf Crisis

NC1201094991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0918 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Austrian President Kurt Waldheim has announced that he and President Husni Mubarak exchanged views on the current status of the Gulf crisis.

In a news conference at Cairo Airport today, he expressed his appreciation for President Mubarak's clarity and firmness in all his statements, especially his assertion of the need for a full opportunity to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis, according to the UN resolutions calling for Iraq's withdrawal and reinstatement of the Kuwaiti legitimacy.

On the possibility of giving time for the economic embargo against Iraq to yield results, Waldheim said that things will change if there are signs of Iraq's withdrawal.

He asserted that the view he announced in Vienna has not changed. The view is that chances for peace are still slim but every effort must be made in the next few days prior to the UN deadline for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

He said he will leave on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman but affirmed that his current tour does not include a visit to Iraq.

The Austrian president pointed out that his talks with President Mubarak also dealt with issues of mutual concern. He expressed his gratitude to President Husni Mubarak and noted that he looked forward to exchanging more views with President Mubarak on the current Gulf crisis.

Waldheim Leaves For Muscat 12 Jan

NC1201092091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0849 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for Muscat this morning at the end of a brief visit. While in Cairo, he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments of the Gulf crisis.

Waldheim was bid farewell at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Mubarak on Gulf Crisis, Iraqi Threats to Israel

NC1101140591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has expressed hope that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn would see the imminent danger and realize the true situation around him. He said that the lack of an outcome at the Geneva meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister was a shock because this means that the UN resolutions will be implemented by force. He stressed that no one wants war but there is no other recourse in a difficult situation such as this.

In an interview with the CNN television network, President Mubarak expressed his belief that there is no hope of reaching a solution for the current crisis unless there is a miracle, something that is almost impossible. He stressed the importance of making the utmost effort to reach a peaceful solution for the Gulf crisis. He added that though he does not expect positive results from the mission of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, every possible effort must be made until the 15 January deadline.

President Mubarak said that he has sent messages to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn warning him of the grave consequences of the dangerous situation, but it seems that the Iraqi president does not believe the warnings. President Mubarak stressed that it is impossible to resolve the Kuwaiti crisis and the Palestinian one simultaneously because the Kuwaiti problem is an Arab-Arab one while the Palestinian one is not, and thus they cannot be resolved together.

President Mubarak said the statement by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva that Iraq will attack Israel if war erupts is a mistake. He said: Why would Iraq attack Israel if the latter is not a member of the alliance confronting Iraq in this crisis?

President Mubarak expressed his belief that the Iraqi Air Force would not be able to withstand an air attack by the allied forces, because of the allies' high technology.

Defenses Boosted Against Sudan-Based Strike

NC1401133891 Paris AFP in English 1325 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, Jan 14 (AFP)—The Egyptian Army has strengthened its defences in Upper Egypt against any Iraqi strike launched from Sudan, the semi-official paper AL-JUMHURIYAH reported here Monday, quoting military sources.

It said there was little likelihood of such an attack, but vital economic assets including the high dam at Aswan had been given boosted protection, with extra anti-aircraft cover and the stationing of warplanes. Sudan has denied reports that Iraqi forces are based there.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak refused at last week's mini- Arab summit in Libya to speak to Sudanese junta leader 'Umar al- Bashir, and has warned that the Egyptian Army "would destroy every Iraqi base in Sudan in 24 hours".

Sudan has sided with Iraq in the Gulf crisis, refusing to vote in the Arab League's condemnation of the invasion of Kuwait.

Belgian Hostages Released in Cairo 12 Jan

NC1201190291 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Four Belgian hostages who had been held in Lebanon for three years were released in Cairo today, Saturday, 12 January 1991. This step was taken as a humanitarian response to the appeals the Belgian state and the hostages' families had made to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, both of whom had earlier called for the release of all the hostages in the area.

The Belgian Government, in cooperation with the French Government, received the hostages after ascertaining their safety. The two governments thanked Egypt and Libya.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Gulf Crisis

LD1001111691 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Interview with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by foreign correspondents in Tripoli on 8 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified correspondent] What are your expectations from the James Baker-Tariq 'Aziz meeting?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] For your information, we contributed to the arranging of this meeting. There is an international committee consisting of a number of prominent figures. It includes Ortega, Willy Brandt, Rajiv Gandhi, Claude Cheysson, and others. It visited Baghdad and some Arab countries and found itself facing a crisis as a result of the West's insistence on the date of the meeting of the foreign ministers of Iraq and the United States, and when the Iraqis named 12 January and the Americans named another date. When Ortega came to me as a representative of this committee, I asked the committee to find a compromise date between those proposed by Iraq and the United States. The international committee exerted efforts and reached agreement on this date, 9 January. That is what happened.

[Italian correspondent] What do you hope for?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We hope for peace, of course.

[Italian correspondent] What if peace is not achieved?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] First of all, the correct interpretation of the date, 15 January. According to all norms, this does not mean the start of military operations. If no peaceful solution is achieved before 15 January, the period of a state of war begins, but this does not mean the start of military operations. That is, we enter a state of war, but military operations might begin after a month, after a year, after two years. There is no law that says the military operations have to begin on the 15th.

[Italian correspondent] In the event of war, what will your attitude be?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] First, I fear that a third world war will take place. The world is ready for a split into two parts. The world is not one camp as believed by the simple-minded. Even the First and Second World Wars started this way, for very simple reasons. [passage omitted] I do not exclude the possiblity of the Soviet Union's entering a war against the United States in the event of a world war. The reasons are clear: Iran and Iraq are on the borders of the Soviet Union, not the borders of the United States. The Gulf is closer to the Soviet Union than to the United States. If the United States crosses the red line in the Gulf, the Soviet Union may intervene military against it. Therefore, the world should look back at the First and Second World Wars and avoid sliding into a new dangerous pitfall with the same stupidity. [passage omitted]

[Algerian correspondent] Excellency: You are now in charge of the Arab Maghreb, and a conference is going to be held in Libya. How do you asses the situation since the founding of the Arab Maghreb Union at the Zeraloa conference? And what is your task during the chairmanship of your excellency?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] During the recent stage we were concerened with setting up the structures of the union, and we are now on the verge of concluding this stage. Later, these structures will enable us to carry out the missions of the union, until we achieve Maghreb unity and Arab unity.

As for what I will do in this position, there are no defined executive prerogatives for the chairman of the union. Power is now in the hands of the Presidential Council of the union. [passage omitted]

[BBC correspondent] Recent events in the region indicate that a large part of the financial resources of the countries of the region and the world may be spent on war efforts, rather than peace efforts. The truth is that there is much poverty in the world and the poor world is in need of these resources. Instead of spending them on war, they should be spent on peace. This will affect international institutions such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, whose head you have honored. Will it be possible to continue these international efforts and actions in light of the current circumstances?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] There is no doubt that the Kuwaiti crisis is a dangerous one. Suffice it to say that the results achieved over the last few months have been negative and very bad in relation to the resources of the Arab homeland. The poor Arab peoples have suffered. Income that used to come to some Arabs has been cut off. The Palestinian people have lost hundreds of millions of dollars which used to come to them from the Gulf and employment. The Jordanian people have suffered greatly, and so have the Yemeni, Sudanese, and Mauritanian people. These people have indeed suffered greatly as a result of the Kuwait crisis. The biggest loss is that Gulf oil is now being exhausted. So far Saudi Arabia has paid 20-30 billion [currency not specified] as expenses for the U.S. and multinational forces for its protection. We used to control oil production through OPEC. OPEC used to ration production in order to conserve the reserves for the longest possible period for these people. Now this rationing has collapsed and everyone is producing as much as he can. Consequently huge quantities of the Arab oil reserves have been exhausted in these months. [passage omitted]

We are now using up our oil resources. Every day, Saudi Arabia is producing 10 million barrels, or 8 million barrels which it is spending on the American forces. Saudi Arabia used to say that it had a deficit in its projects [as heard] which it could not cover, because it did not have any budget for this. It is said that it could not take part in the financing of the great man-made river [in Libya] because of its budget deficit; well, now, in five months Saudi Arabia, spent $25 billion on the American forces, and so did Abu Dhabi and Qatar.

Now, there is certain loss: the biggest quantity of oil is now being burned, and we have spent billions on the American forces. If a war breaks out, then the loss will be bigger. It will be a serious catastrophe. [passage omitted]

[Question indistinct]

[Al-Qadhdhafi] In order to rescue peace we must do everything.

[Italian correspondent] What is your view on Saddam Husayn's linking the Palestinian issue with the conflict in the Gulf?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I am (?rather confused) on this matter. Saddam Husayn is linking this (?perhaps not) physically. He means...[Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] On this point we support him. All the peoples support him on this point. He means this. Why do they only insist on implementing the Security Council resolutions which concern Iraq and not insist on implementing the resolutions that concern the Israelis?

The Security Council issued several resolutions against the Israelis; they were committed by them, and the United Nations did not compel them to abide by them. Why then does the United Nations compel only Iraq to abide by the Security Council resolutions? Why are the resolutions against Iraq respected and the resolutions of the Security Council against Israelis not respected? This is the point on which we support him. It does not mean that he must not withdraw from Kuwait until the Israelis withdraw from Palestine [words indistinct].

If the Security Council resolutions must be implemented then the resolutions against the Israelis must also be implemented.

In this connection I have sent a letter to the chairman of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly president. I told them that the Security Council resolutions did not mean boycotting Iraq where food, medicine, and clothes are concerned.

Boycotting Iraqi oil might be acceptable (?in this respect). A weapons boycott; that is, a refusal to sell weapons to Iraq is reasonable. Spare parts [words indistinct] are all acceptable. But to stop food or medicine or clothes from reaching Iraq is a crime, such a thing has never happened in the world before.

We would then be boycotting sick people in Iraqi hospitals and preventing them from receiving treatment. Are we boycotting the Iraqi Army or Iraqi patients in hospitals? Are we boycotting the troops or the suckling children who need milk? Are we boycotting the weapons or the clothes which protect people from cold weather? This is a barbaric act. Libya is not at all committed to it. Libya will abide by the boycott of the oil and the weapons because these are reasonable things. If Libya has food, medicines, and clothes it will never hesitate to send these to Iraq. Libya will not participate in an inhumanitarian act like that. [passage indinstinct]

Also in connection with this is the fact that it is up to the U.S. Congress to give authority to the American president to declare or not to declare the war. So is the U.S. Congress an international congress or an American congress? In the Gulf there are not only American forces. There are French forces, German forces, British forces; we have not heard at all that the British Parliament or the German parliament, the Italian parliament or the French parliament have or have not given permission for the use of these forces which belong to their countries in the war.

Does it mean that what the American Congress says would also apply to the other forces? This is an American congress and not an international congress. It can give permission to the American forces to start the war, but the other forces have their own parliaments and their own governments. What is more is: Will the decision of the American Congress apply to Saudi Arabia if it gave permission to start the war, Saudi Arabia thus becomes the theater, and the war begins from Saudi Arabia?

Let us suppose that the American Congress gave permission for the war and Saudi Arabia felt that it did not want to enter the war. Why is the whole world now listening to what the American president is saying? Why don't we also find out what Saudi Arabia is saying about the war and what France is saying about the war and what Italy is saying about the war? What is the national assembly in Egypt saying, the Syrian national assembly, and the Moroccan parliament; Morocco has forces there. If the American Congress decides, does this mean that all these forces must move and enter hell because the American Congress has decided to go into the war? [passage indistinct]

If the world is scared and bowing its head in front of America, we are not scared. If America terrifies the world it does not terrify us. We say this and at the same time we are against Iraq for entering Kuwait; it must leave Kuwait and let the Kuwaiti people decide their own future.

Another point is that the American forces entered in order to defend Saudi Arabia only. What changed their mission afterward? Generally, we in Libya, from our experience with America, are sure that America has no credibility.

We tried it and it did not respect international law or human rights. The greatest enemy of human rights is America. The one who most breaks international law is America. The whole world is witness of its kidnapping of the Libyan prisoners of war in Chad. It moved them out and their whereabouts are still not known. We are still asking the Security Council and the United Nations and the whole world to ask America to return the Libyan prisoners of war whom it kidnapped by force.

What did America have to do with Libyan prisoners of war in an African country? How is it going to win world public opinion over to its side against Iraq if this is how it behaves? Bush's decision to extend economic sanctions against Libya is also based on false assumptions. He cannot prove to the world that they are true. All this points to the fact that America is proceeding from false pretexts. This is reflected in its stand on the Gulf. It was America who occupied Grenada and who occupied Panama and who is deciding the fate of these nations. How can it win public opinion over to its side in a case like that of Kuwait?

Why is there no one who says this to America? In this respect, we consider that the heads of state of western Europe are merely officials at the U.S. State Department. This is because their countries have been colonized by the American forces ever since the Second World War.

We pressured Iraq to release the American prisoners—the hostages—and it released them. In return, America kidnapped the Libyan prisoners of war. The world is witness to the behavior of the cowboys. We made our efforts to bring about a meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister and (?through) pressure by the committee which I mentioned to you [words indistinct] Ortega and this meeting took place.

We continue to make efforts so that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait and the problem be solved peacefully. We have a hope that Iraq will withdraw from Kuwait. We hope that our efforts will be fruitful.

[Italian correspondent] Is there any possibility that you might meet Saddam Husayn before the date of 15 January?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I have no objection to anything that concerns world peace.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Message To UN on Gulf

LD1101181991 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jan (JANA)—JANA has learned that the brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi] has sent a message to both the UN secretary general and the president of the UN Security Council in which he says: "At this critical stage during which international security and peace are facing a very serious threat because of the explosive situation in the Gulf, we would like to draw attention to the danger of an Israeli military attack against Iraq, Jordan, and Syria."

In his message the brother leader affirms that the danger comes more from the Israeli side than from the Iraqi side. He says it should not be forgotten that they are the side with an interest in enkindling the situation in the region.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Gulf Coalition Nations

LD1101184291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi] has sent a message to the leaders of the countries which have troops in the Gulf region. In the message he says:

You are aware that the U.S. Congress is now examining the adoption of a resolution which will allow President Bush to use military force against Iraq after the 15 January. As your country has troops in the Gulf region, we are asking whether the U.S. Congress resolution will be binding on the troops of your country, which is a sovereign country with an independent government and parliament which is not the U.S. Congress, or is this a U.S. resolution that will not be binding on your troops?

Al-Qadhdhafi Contacts European Leaders on Gulf

LD1201204991 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution Mu'ammar Al- Qadhdhafi contacted by telephone a number of leaders of European states and governments within the context of his intensive efforts to maintain international peace and security.

JANA has learned that the contacts of the brother leader of the revolution were made with French President Francois Mitterrand, Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. He urged them to exert serious efforts to safeguard international peace and to work toward a positive stand by Iraq that will encourage the holding of an urgent and extended session of the UN Security Council in Geneva with the participation of the Mediterranean basin and the Middle East countries as the final pan-Arab attempt from the Great Jamahiriyah to save the people of Iraq and to spare the world the catastrophe of destruction.

JANA has also learned that the brother leader of the revolution has instructed Brother Staff Major Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud to leave immediately for Iraq, Jordan, and Iran.

Al-Qadhdhafi Welcomes Syrian Statement on Gulf

LD1301130391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] [Dateline indistinct] The brother leader of the revolution made a statement to JANA yesterday evening in which he said: "The interview given by President Hafiz al-Asad, in which he called for withdrawing from Kuwait and announced that Syria stands by Iraq against the common enemy until victory, was fully appreciated by us and is considered an unambigious pan-Arab commitment." The brother leader of the revolution added in his statement: "We highly appreciate the contents of President Hafiz al-Asad's interview and consider it a pan-Arab commitment".

'Peace Ship' Loading Milk, Medicines in Tripoli

JN1201100091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1338 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Basra, 11 Jan (INA)—The peace ship, Balqis, is still anchored at Tripoli port completing the loading of children's milk and medicines donated by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The journalists on board the ship said in a radio contact with the INA correspondent in Basra that many delegations have been coming to the ship and meeting with those embarking on the trip to express their support for the heroic stand of Iraq, which today, under the historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn, represents the spearhead of the Arab and Islamic nations holy march to liberate the Muslim holy shrines and expel the invaders from Arab land and waters.

On the other hand, the invaders are still emptying the cargo of the peace ship, Ibn Khaldoon, currently anchored in Qabus port in the Sultanate of Oman. The peace messengers expressed their insistence on continuing their trip and delivering their humanitarian message to the whole world.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Chadian Envoy 4 Jan

LD0401184991 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli 4 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution today received brother Hassan Fadoul Kittir, Chadian commissioner for planning and cooperation, and personal envoy of brother Idriss Deby, chairman of the Chadian State Council, and his accompanying delegation.

The Chadian commissioner for planning and cooperation conveyed a written message to the brother leader of the revolution from brother Idriss Mohamed Deby in which he expresses gratitude and the appreciation of the Chadian State Council and the Chadian people to the great Jamahiriyah and the brother leader of the revolution, following the distinguished role played by the great Al-Fatah revolution and the Libyan Arab people in helping the Chadian people rid itself of the lackey Habre and his corrupt gang, who committed the worst crimes against the Chadian people.

CSFR 'Goodwill Mission' Meets Al-Qadhdhafi

AU1101230891 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 10 Jan 91 p 9

[CTK report in the "Briefly" column]

[Text] Members of a Czechoslovak goodwill mission, which is headed by Richard Wagner, the economic adviser of the CSFR president, were received by the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in the port of Sirte yesterday. According to information from the CSFR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "serious questions of bilateral relations were discussed" during the one-hour meeting, the participants in which agreed that mutual relations must be shaped "in harmony with changes in the two countries."

Darfur Province, Surt Municipality Declare 'Unity'

LD0701212291 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] today received a document of unity between the province of Darfur in sisterly Sudan and the municipality of the Khalij Surt [Gulf of Sidra] in the Great Jamahiriyah. The document said: [passage omitted] The people's committee of the municipality of Khalij Surt and the government of the province of Darfur have decided:

1. To declare unity between the municipality of Khalij Surt and the province of Darfur, and to abolish all the restrictions which prevent the free movement of citizens between them.

2. To set up specialist working committees to coordinate between them in cultural, educational, agricultural, and trade spheres in the framework of integration between the two countries [Libya and Sudan] in all spheres.

3. To hold regular meetings every three months between the people's committee of the municipality of Khalij Surt and the government of the province of Darfur. Issued in al-Fashir [in Darfur] on 15 Jumai al-Akhir 1400 after the death of the Prophet, corresponding to 1 January 1991. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Body To Support Iraq Against 'Aggression'

AB1301110491 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane, permanent secretary of the Military Committee for National Salvation, CMSN, has returned from Algiers where he led the Mauritanian delegation to the meeting of the Shura, the Maghreb Consultative Council. The second ordinary session of the Shura, which was held from 7 to 9 January, examined several draft agreements prepared by the specialized joint commissions; the report of the secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union, UMA, on the activities of the organization; and the study of certain issues which will be brought to the attention of the Presidential Council.

The permanent secretary of the CMSN expressed satisfaction with the results of this session. An important political statement was issued at the end of the session. It concerns the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue. Concerning the Arab Gulf crisis, the Shura Council is calling on all Arab countries to work toward finding a peaceful solution within an Arab framework, a solution that will spare the Arab nation from the ravages of a destructive war.

The council also affirmed the UMA's position on the side of the sister state of Iraq in the case of military aggression against that country and the support of the organization in the defense of its territorial integrity and its sovereignty. The council condemns the interception by the multinational force of the ship of peace, Ibn Khaldoon.

On the Palestinian issue, the council renews its appeal for the continuation of all forms of support for the Arab Palestinian people, for its national revolution, and for its valiant intifada, until the establishment on its soil of the State of Palestine, with Al-Quds as its capital.

The members of the Shura Council were received by President Chadli Benjedid, by the prime minister, and by the president of the Algerian National Assembly. The participation of the Mauritanian delegation was active, the permanent secretary emphasized in his press statement. He concluded by thanking the brotherly Algerian people, their government, and His Excellency President Chadli Benjedid for the warmth of the welcome extended to the delegation and himself throughout their stay in Algiers.

'Several Thousand' Demonstrate Against U.S.

AB1301193791 Paris AFP in French 1844 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 13 Jan (AFP)—Nouakchott, the Mauritanian capital, was the scene this morning of a significant demonstration of several thousand people for "peace in the Gulf." For about four hours, the demonstrators, who favored the Iraqi position in the Gulf crisis, chanted peace slogans, condemned the risks of war, and vilified the United States and its Western and Arab allies.

The police, who have been deployed in significant numbers for the last three days, had difficulty containing the demonstrators, who would regroup after being dispersed.

The embassy section of town, however, was completely protected by the forces of order. No incidents were reported there by the beginning of the afternoon, when the demonstration seemed to be significantly decreasing in size. The demonstrators also demanded that the Palestinian question be treated "with diligence."

Morocco

Socialist Union of Popular Forces Supports Iraq

LD1201175291 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1545 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Rabat, 12 Jan (MAP)—Mr. Abderrahim Bouabid, first secretary of the Moroccan Socialist Union of Popular Forces Party, asserts: "There is a new world order which is being now imposed by steel, fire, and pressure; it will have repercussions on the Arab World." He also denounces "The American arrogance against the Iraqi Arab people."

At a gathering organized in Rabat by the party's Executive Committee and the Executive Committee of the Istiqlal Party on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the handing over of the document calling for the independence of Morocco, Mr. Abderrahim Bouabid said: "We should not be fooled that the concentration of American forces in the Gulf is merely for the defence of Kuwait." He pointed out: "The state of Iraq, its people, and the Arab people know that such justifications are false." He asserts that the situation in the Gulf, as well as the current crisis between Iraq and Kuwait, is an old problem, "a legacy of colonialism."

Mr. Abderrahim Bouabid said in his address, with regard to his party's stance toward the Gulf crisis. "If the domination of Iraq is the sought after goal, then we are in the battle whether we like it or not." He added: "We will fight such tyranny against Iraq and the Iraqi people."

The gathering was attended by leaders of a number of Moroccan political parties, a number diplomats accredited to Morocco, and a number of Moroccan personalities who signed the document seeking independence for Morocco.

France's Dumas on Meeting With Filali, King

LD1201220691 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] [French Foreign Minister] Mr. Roland Dumas left Rabat this evening for Paris. The French official was seen off at Rabat-Sale Airport by Mr. Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and Mr. Ahmed Reda Guedira, his majesty's adviser. He gave an exclusive statement to Moroccan Television in which he said:

[Begin Dumas recording in French with superimposed Arabic translation] I had an opportunity to meet during this visit with his majesty. This visit follows that of my counterpart Mr. Abdellatif Filali, the minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, paid to Paris [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Mr. Roland Dumas said that the aim of his visit is to exchange views on international issues, considering the status occupied by Morocco in the Arab and international arenas, and the personality of its leader, His Majesty King Hassan II. This makes this meeting very important, particularly as it comes at difficult circumstances.

Mr. Roland Dumas added: I studied with his majesty the king the current issues, particularly those concerning the African continent and the Gulf crisis. The head of French diplomacy affirmed in his statement that the views of his country about the Gulf crisis call for looking for all the details, and this prompts us to seek (?together) what can be done by a last-minute initiative. He also expressed his satisfaction with the initiative of the UN secretary general for achieving peace in the Gulf region.

Bahrain

Defense Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia 14 Jan

NC1401080891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0624 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, 14 Jan (WAKH)—Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, minister of defense, deputy commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force [BDF], left Manama for Hafar al-Batin in Saudi Arabia this morning. He will visit the BDF units stationed there.

UK Foreign Secretary Hurd Arrives on Visit

Received by Deputy Amir

NC1201062891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 11 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of the State of Bahrain, today received UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who is currently visiting Bahrain as part of a tour of several countries in the region.

His highness the deputy amir welcomed the international initiatives seeking a peaceful solution to the crisis resulting from Iraq's continued occupation of the sisterly State of Kuwait.

His highness emphasized the need to implement the international resolutions calling for the unconditional and full withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and for restoring the situation to what it was prior to the invasion.

The meeting also involved a review of the current cooperation between the two countries as well as developments in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Expresses Hope for Peace

NC1201071891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, 11 Jan (WAKH)—UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has expressed his hope that the mission of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in Baghdad will be successful.

At a news conference in Manama tonight, Hurd said that there is a chance for peace and for averting a destructive war in the region if the Iraqi president is persuaded to withdraw from Kuwait.

Hurd expressed the belief that Perez de Cuellar's task may be the last diplomatic effort that has a chance to achieve peace. Afterward, Hurd said, the decision will be up to the Iraqi president. Hurd expressed the hope that the Iraqi president will make an accurate reassessment of the situation and withdraw from Kuwait, as this will be in Iraq's interest.

Hurd said that he agreed with the deputy amir of Bahrain on fully supporting Perez de Cuellar's talks.

The UK foreign secretary said that, if Iraq fails to withdraw, it will certainly be forced out of Kuwait. He noted that today's address by the Iraqi president did not indicate that he intends to withdraw from Kuwait.

The UK foreign secretary said that his tour in the region aims at establishing direct contact with the allied countries in these decisive moments. He noted that the current consultations with the leaders of these countries are very important for examining the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the future measures after the crisis has ended.

Hurd expressed appreciation of the facilities provided by the Bahraini Government to the UK forces in the Gulf and the appropriate measures taken by Bahrain to facilitate and support the task of these forces.

Hurd said: We have agreed that no concessions will be made in the application of the UN Security Council resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government there. Hurd underlined the need for full and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Secretary Douglas Hurd said that he and the deputy amir of Bahrain discussed the future of the region's security. We have found that it is necessary to make decisions concerning future security arrangements, Hurd said. He added that there is a possibility that the Gulf Cooperation Council countries may, with the participation of Egypt, draw up a joint security system for the future. Hurd underlined that such a system should be formulated by countries from the region and not outside it. No other county intends to enter into this security system, Hurd said. The countries of the region should decide on the kind of security they wish and the extent of assistance they want other countries to contribute, he noted.

The UK secretary said that Britain is willing to examine any proposal for assistance.

Secretary Douglas Hurd praised the understanding shown by the Bahraini senior officials of the current situation in the region and the current circumstances caused by the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Official on Emergency Instructions, Gas Masks

NC1401075091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0628 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, 14 Jan (WAKH)—Colonel Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Rashid al-Khalifah, director of the Interior Ministry's Civil Defense Department, has stated that in implementation of an agreement with the Information Ministry, enlightenment of the public began in the news media yesterday.

He said that several instructional leaflets on what action to follow in cases of emergency, the use of gas masks, and other guidance on how to act during air raids and similar contingencies will be reprinted.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Rashid told the Bahraini AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ newspaper, in a statement published today, that very large quantities of protective gas masks will arrive in the country soon and there will be enough for all residents in Bahrain. He said the masks will arrive in groups and will be distributed at cooperatives and supermarkets.

He added that the state has provided all facilities for the transport and importation of these masks. He pointed out that all incoming masks have been tested and are ready for use.

Goverment Closes Schools, Cites 'Rising Tension'

NC1301204491 Paris AFP in English 1559 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, Jan 13 (AFP)—Bahrain's state-run primary and secondary schools will close temporarily from January 16 to February 8, the Education Ministry said Sunday two days ahead of the expiry of a U.N. deadline for Iraq to evacuate Kuwait or face war.

A statement by the ministry said students would be given a holiday for that period to replace vacation due from February 6 to 15.

Several private schools have also decided to temporarily close their doors.

Saudi Arabia has also extended school holidays amid the rising tension.

Kuwait

Amir Tells Baker: 'Force Must Be Used'

LD1101171691 London KUNA in Arabic 1626 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Summary] al-Ta'if, 11 Jan (KUNA)—His highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, said here today that if Iraq refuses to comply with the international resolutions calling for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, force must be used to get them out. His highness the amir explained this during his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. He added that we welcome peace that is based on total Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

His highness the amir received Secretary of State Baker and the delegation accompanying him today. Mr. Baker informed his highness of the latest development of the Gulf issue following his recent talks with the Iraqi foreign minister in Geneva and the insistence of the United States on the unconditional implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions. His highness the amir thanked Secretary of State Baker and asked him to convey his greetings and best wishes to U.S. President George Bush.

UN Envoy Welcomes Perez de Cuellar Iraq Visit

LD1101203191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1918 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Following a meeting he held yesterday with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Kuwaiti permanent representative to the United Nations, Muhammad Abdullah Abu al-Hasan, expressed Kuwait's welcome of the UN secretary general's visit to Baghdad which is meant as a last attempt to convince the Iraqi regime to submit to the international resolutions in order to spare the region the danger of war and destruction.

The Kuwaiti official considered remote the possibility of the Iraqi regime responding to De Cuellar's efforts, because the Iraqi regime neither respects nor appreciates the role and responsibilities of the United Nations.

Abu al-Hasan emphasized that there is no scope for bargaining with the Iraqi regime. He said that the matter concerns the sovereignty of Kuwait and the dignity and fate of its people.

He added that Kuwait favors the call for an international peace conference, but this should not be linked to the issue of Kuwait.

He stressed that Iraq, when it occupied Kuwait, was not motivated by the Palestinian issue. He said that Saddam Husayn should be the last person to talk about the Palestinian issue, as he has caused the most harm to that issue.

Oman

Austrian President Waldheim Arrives in Muscat

On Regional Tour

NC1201151291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Muscat, 12 Jan (WAKH)—Austrian President Kurt Waldheim arrived in Muscat this afternoon on an official three-day visit to Oman. His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id led the well-wishers welcoming the Austrian president and his accompanying delegation. Waldheim's visit to Muscat is part of his tour of certain countries in the region for talks on the Gulf crisis.

Hold Talks With Qabus

NC1301110091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1022 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Muscat, 13 Jan (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman today held an official round of talks with Austrian President Dr. Kurt Waldheim on issues of common concern and bilateral ties. [passage omitted]

Hold Second Session of Talks

NC1401091391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0851 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Muscat, 14 Jan (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id held a second of talks in Muscat today with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim in which they reviewed bilateral ties in all fields and discussed current developments in the region and the efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully.

Official talks between His Majesty Sultan Qabus and Austrian President Waldheim began yesterday and focused on finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Shortens Visit, Departs for Amman

AU1301160391 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1201 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Because of the dramatic events in the Gulf, Austrian President Waldheim is shortening his state visit to Oman and will go to Amman for talks with Jordanian King Husayn tomorrow at noon.

The additional leg of his trip is to be fixed in line with the requirements. A flight to Baghdad, however, is not planned, Waldheim said after a talk with the sultan of Oman.

Waldheim did not rule out that he might meet with PLO Chief 'Arafat in Amman, who is involved in the efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Seen Off by Sultan Qabus

NC1401102291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0941 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Muscat, 14 Jan (WAKH)—Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and the accompanying delegation left Muscat this afternoon following a three-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. He was seen off by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

The Austrian president and His Majesty Sultan Qabus held talks on bilateral relations and the developments in the region which were triggered by the unjust Iraqi aggression on the State of Kuwait.

'Peace Ship' Leaves Oman for Iraqi Port

NC1201230891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2135 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Basra, 12 Jan (INA)—The peace ship Ibn Khaldoon left Qabus port in Oman today on its way to the Umm Qasr port in the heroic al-Basrah Governorate after the U.S. and Atlantic forces unloaded its cargo of infant formula and foodstuffs. [passage omitted]

Qatar

UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Arrives

Meets Amir

NC1201115891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, 12 Jan (WAKH)—UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd arrived in Doha today on a short visit to the State of Qatar as part of his current regional tour which began with a visit to Bahrain.

Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir and a number of Qatari officials met the UK secretary upon his arrival.

[Manama WAKH in Arabic at 1042 GMT adds that: "His highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, met this morning with UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who is currently visiting Doha.

["According to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY the meeting involved a review of various aspects of the Gulf crisis, in light of Iraq's refusal to implement the UN Security Council resolutions calling for its immediate withdrawal from the State of Kuwait and the return of legitimate government to that country, under the leadership of his Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. The talks also dealt with the means to increase bilateral cooperation in various fields."]

Discusses Gulf, Departs

NC1201150591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1247 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, 12 Jan (WAKH)—UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd left Doha for Abu Dhabi this afternoon following a visit of several hours to Qatar within the framework of his tour of a number of countries in the region. He was seen off at Doha airport by Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir. During his visit, Hurd held talk wtih senior Qatari officials on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the efforts being made to find a peaceful solution and on bilateral ties.

Amir, Hurd Meetings Reviewed

NC1201172791 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, Jan 12 (WAKH)—British sources described the talks held between the amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and the British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd here today as fruitful and constructive and were characterized by mutual confidence and friendship.

QATARI NEWS AGENCY quoted the sources as saying that the talks dealt with the Gulf crisis in light of the continuing Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and its refusal to heed international will calling for the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimacy.

The two sides expressed their full support for the mission by the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who is visiting Iraq today in a last attempt to persuade the Iraqi leadership to change course and pull out its troops from Kuwait prior to the January 15 deadline set by the Security Council, the sources said.

The British sources added that view points of the two sides were identical on ways to confront the current crisis in the Gulf and the two sides agreed on the necessity of holding intensive consultations among the states in the region to agree on collective measures that should be adopted to ensure future security and stability of the Gulf.

Saudi Arabia

Syrian Officials Arrive in Riyadh on Visit

To Hold 'Urgent' Talks

NC1301193391 Paris AFP in English 1911 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 13 (AFP)—Syrian Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam arrived here unexpectedly Sunday and was to hold "urgent" talks with King Fahd, official Saudi sources reported.

Mr. Khaddam was accompanied by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' as multinational forces in Saudi Arabia geared up for a possible war in the near future with Iraq.

A U.S.-led multinational force in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, to which Syria has contributed nearly 20,000 soldiers, will have United Nations authorization to take military action against Iraqi troops occupying Kuwait after Tuesday.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal travelled to Damascus last Friday to deliver a message from King Fahd to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The Saudi monarch meanwhile received an urgent message from Moroccan King Hassan II on Sunday, but the contents were not disclosed here.

In Damascus, President al-Asad met earlier Sunday with United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah.

Defense Officials Meet

LD1401140891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1322 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and theater of operations, received this afternoon at his office in the [Defense] Ministry the Syrian Deputy Chief of Staff, General 'Ali Aslan.

Numerous issues concerning the armed forces in the two fraternal countries were discussed during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by the chief of operations of the Saudi Armed Forces and the commander of the Syrian forces in Saudi Arabia.

Meets With King Fahd

LD1401003191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2120 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 13 Jan (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God preserve him, received at his office at al-Yamamah Palace this evening his excellency Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and members of his delegation.

The audience was attended by crown prince and deputy prime minister and chief of the National Guards, his royal highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and the Saudi Foreign Minister his royal highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

The Syrian vice president is accompanied by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Syrian ambassador to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom 'Umar al-Sayyid.

Joint Forces Chief Receives French Commander

LD1201231591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Jan (SPA)—His royal Highness Staff Lt. General Khalid Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and operations theater, received in his office at the ministry this evening Maurice Schmitt, chief of general staff of the French army, and the delegation accompanying him which is visiting the Kingdom at present.

Several issues concerning the armed forces of the two friendly countries were discussed during the meeting.

CSFR Delegation Met by Prince Khalid

LD1301202291 Prague CTK in English 1446 GMT 13 Jan 91

[By unidentified CTK correspondent]

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 13 (CTK)—A Czechoslovak delegation led by Deputy Defence Minister Major-General Antonin Rasek was received by Saudi Prince Khalid in the presence of chief of staff Abdul Aziz on Saturday.

A member of the delegation, presidential adviser Jiri Krizan told CTK that the prince appreciated the participation of Czechoslovak troops in the multinational forces on Saudi Arabian territory. Krizan regarded the delegation's reception only hours after its arrival in Saudi Arabia as an "appreciation of Czechoslovakia's political effort at the solution of the Gulf crisis."

According to Krizan, the Saudi representative spoke highly of the Czechoslovak unit as well as its technology and indicated Saudi Arabia's commercial interest in the Czechoslovak-made Tatra truck tractors.

Krizan said the unit's presence is important for political, economic as well as moral reasons.

The delegation has brought to Saudi Arabia supplies for the Czechoslovak decontamination unit which has been in Saudi Arabia since mid-December as part of the multinational force facing Iraq.

Civil Defense Exercises Conducted in Riyadh

NC1301151391 Paris AFP in English 1442 GMT 13 Jan 91

[By Chris Lefkow]

[Text] Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Jan 13 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia began bracing for war on Sunday conducting last-minute civil defense preparations as the deadline loomed for Iraqi troops to quit Kuwait. Air raid sirens sounded across Riyadh two days ahead of the United Nations deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, as the Saudi authorities held the first emergency drill in the capital since Iraq's August 2 invasion.

On Saturday, the government launched an appeal for blood donations and announced a plan to begin distributing gas masks to Riyadh residents.

The streets of the capital were virtually deserted after a day of rain when the piercing wail of air raid sirens followed the muezzin's call to prayer. But most cars and trucks remained on the roads as drivers ignored the signal to find the nearest air raid shelter, residents said. Emergency sirens also sounded in the suburbs of the capital and nearby towns of Kharj and al-Dalam.

The air raid drills were to be repeated twice in Riyadh on Monday, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. Upon hearing sirens, people are expected to put on their gas masks and head for shelter.

Meanwhile official Saudi newspapers carried reports on the launching of a nationwide blood donation campaign.

The Saudi Directorate General of Civil Defense announced Saturday that it would begin distribution of gas masks to residents of the capital on Sunday. But Saudi civil defense officials at one facility visited by reporters in Riyadh turned away several dozen people who turned up because they did not yet have masks to hand out.

Riyadh residents have been told they can obtain a gas mask by depositing 100 rials (27.80 dollars) with a bank in the capital and then going to one of several distribution centers. Residents of Eastern Province received gas masks during the past few months and there have been several air raid drills in the province which borders Kuwait. The Saudi media has been carrying articles on measures to take in case of Iraqi chemical or biological attack almost daily during the past few weeks.

According to Western experts, Iraq's al-Husayn missile has a range of between 650 and 700 kilometers (400 and 430 miles) while the Iraqi al-'Abbas missile is estimated to have a maximum range of 900 kilometers (555 miles). Both devices are modeled on the Soviet-made Scud-B missile, which has a range of between 300 and 350 kilometers (185 and 216 miles). Experts are divided about whether Iraq has the capability to mount chemical warheads on its missiles.

Colonel Muhammad Salih Maghrabi, the Saudi commander of civil defense in Eastern Province, told Saudi journalists there would be no need to evacuate any Saudi city because "the state has taken all necessary precautions to secure safety and protection."

He advised Saudis and expatriates in the province to keep one room of their home airtight and to stock it with food, water, a first-aid kit and a radio.

U.S. military doctors have played down the effectiveness of any Iraqi use of chemical or biological weapons against the U.S.-led multi-national force in the Gulf. They said that because of protective gear, about 95 per cent of chemical attack victims would survive.

Iraq used mustard gas and nerve agents during its eight-year war with Iran.

Neighboring Gulf states have also begun civil preparedness steps with Bahrain conducting its first air raid drills on Saturday.

Interior Ministry Warns Residents on Disturbances

LD1301194791 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] A responsible source at the Saudi Interior Ministry made the following statement to SPA today:

The Interior Ministry would like to issue directives to all the residents in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the various Arab, Islamic, and friendly states for whom the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has provided all the means of security and tranquility and offered them the possibility of living a respectable life in the safety and stability of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, so that they can apply themselves fully to the work they carry out in the various public and private sectors.

The source added: In view of the present critical situation which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is going through, the Interior Ministry hopes it is clear to everyone that any offense or excess, or any disturbance caused by anyone, irrespective of their affiliation, will receive the ultimate punishment as stipulated by the Islamic shari'a [Islamic law] in accordance with the Koran and His Prophet's tradition [Sunna].

One of these verses is: This is the recompense of those who fight against God and His messenger and hasten about the earth to do corruption there—they shall be slaughtered, or crucified, or their hands and feet shall alternatively be struck off, or they shall be banished from the land. Surate 5, Verse 32.

The source concluded the statement, saying: The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has already announced several times that it will show absolutely no leniency toward anyone who tries to harm the country's security and that it will not hesitate one second to carry out the deterrent punishment on that person. We ask God Almighty to spare this country, its population, and those who live in it the calamities and to protect them from all evil.

United Arab Emirates

UK Foreign Secretary Arrives in Abu Dhabi

On Two-Day Visit

NC1201151991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Jan (WAKH)—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd arrived in Abu Dhabi from Doha this afternoon for a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as part of his tour of a number of states in the region.

Hurd was received at the airport by UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah and the British ambassador to the UAE.

Comments on Peaceful Solution

NC1201173891 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 12 (WAKH)—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd expressed his conviction that the visit of the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to Iraq, which started today, was the last chance for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis triggered by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"A peaceful solution to the crisis is possile if (?Iraq's leader changes) his mind and decides to withdraw his troops from Kuwait," Hurd said in a statement to the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES [UAE] NEWS AGENCY.

He pointed out that the only thing that de Cuellar can do is to explain clearly to the Iraqi regime the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council towards the Gulf crisis.

Hurd also said that the UAE and the United Kingdom's views on the solution of the Gulf crisis were identical.

"The views United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the present British Prime Minister John Major were identical regarding the necessity of implementing the U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for a total withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait" he said.

Asked if the announcement of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China yesterday that they did not want war in the Gulf was a "crack" on the unified international stand against Iraq, Hurd said "no one wants war in the Gulf."

However, he said that the Soviet Union was one of the states which backed the U.N. Security Council Decision No. 678, authorising the council's member states to use force if necessary after the 15th January United Nations Security Council deadline.

"The Soviet Union affirmed to us that it did not change its stand towards the crisis", he stressed.

Confers With President

NC1301070691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], tonight met UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi.

A responsible source said that the meeting involved a discussion of the current events concerning the Gulf crisis. They also discussed current international efforts aimed at guaranteeing full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions calling for the full and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from the State of Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government under His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, to that country.

The source said that Douglas Hurd has reiterated Britain's resolve to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in the framework of the international alliance and to restore the legitimate government to power in Kuwait.

The source concluded his statement, carried by the news agency of the United Arab Emirates, by saying that His Highness Shaykh Zayid has praised the honorable and unshifting stands of the brotherly and friendly countries, their support to right and justice, and their determination to end the injustice and terminate the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Gives News Conference

NC1301111391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Jan [WAKH]—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has stressed that the British Government strongly supports UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's mission in Baghdad.

In a news conference here today at the end of his visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Hurd said that Mr. Perez de Cuellar carries the Security Council resolutions to the Iraqi leadership and will emphasize the need for Iraq to practically implement those resolutions. He also enjoys the support of the international alliance, which backs the resolutions, to emphasize Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

He explained that his talks with His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, centered on the developments of the Gulf crisis and ways to promote bilateral ties. Security arrangements in the region were also discussed, he said, indicating that this same subject was brought up during his visits to Bahrain and Qatar.

The discussion, Hurd added, touched on the views of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states on this subject and their proposals on how to defend the region.

Asked by the United Arab Emirates' news agency about his assessment of the relations between the UAE and Britain in light of the Gulf crisis, Hurd said his country maintains firm relations with the UAE. Since the beginning of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, he said, Britain, in full coordination with the UAE and the other GCC states, did everything it could to counter the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait.

He said he met with members of the British community in the UAE during his visit, and added: We advised our nationals in Bahrain and Qatar to return to Britain because of the danger of a possible war in the Gulf.

On the Iraqi regime's demand to link a solution to the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question, Hurd said Saddam Husayn is not entitled to talk about the Palestine question.

He pointed out that many Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia, the GCC states, Egypt, and Syria, have stressed that Saddam Husayn does not have the right to speak for the Palestinians.

He stressed that Saddam Husayn has greatly harmed the Palestine question with his invasion of Kuwait and violation of international law.

Hurd explained that Britain's position on the Palestine question stresses the need for the international community to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict once the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait is ended.

Hurd renewed his country's support for the resolutions of the EC Rome summit last month, which call for an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices, the need to prepare for this conference, and the need for it to be attended by all parties to the conflict.

He added: We believe that such a conference is a necessary, dynamic way to find a lasting and just peaceful solution to the long-standing Middle East crisis.

Asked if there is still a chance for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, in view of the fact that the deadline set by the UN Security Council is only two days away, Douglas Hurd said: Yes, there is a chance for peace, but it depends on a decision by the Iraqi president, who should choose the side of realism and logic and spare his country from destruction. Hurd added: Saddam Husayn should comply with international resolutions or face the fate of aggressors.

Hurd said that Iraq should use the opportunity of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's presence in Iraq and make a decision to withdraw from Kuwait.

Concerning the possibility of moving back the deadline of 15 January, Hurd said: We see no reason why the deadline set by the UN Security Council for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait should be put back.

Asked if Britain has made a decision to go to war against Iraq, Hurd said that Britain's official commitment to the solution to the problem is to send military troops to the desert to confront the aggressor. He added: The allies' decision has been clear since the beginning. No date has been decided upon to declare war so far, for we believe that it is necessary to avoid war if possible. War will be declared when it becomes necessary to do so.

Douglas Hurd mentioned that the EC foreign ministers met in Luxembourg on 4 January and firmly asserted their support of UN Security Council resolutions and their rejection of any partial solutions to the Gulf crisis.

In that meeting, Hurd said, the EC tried to initiate dialogue with the Iraqi foreign minister, but the latter refused to go to Luxembourg to meet the foreign ministers of Luxembourg, Italy, and Netherlands.

Concerning Britain's position on events in the Soviet Union, Hurd said that his country is concerned and worried about the dispute between the Soviet Government in Moscow and the Baltic republics.

Hurd added: We are preoccupied and busy with the Gulf crisis, but what we see in the Baltic republics is within the realm of our interests, particularly the return of the iron fist policy in the Soviet Union.

The UK foreign secretary said that the countries of the West support the position of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his reform polices of reconstruction "perestroyka."

Hurd warned, however, that the EC "will review that policy if there is a retreat on the reform policy, for the issue of the Baltic republics is of direct concern to the EC and the EC considers the Soviet Union's annexation of these republics in 1945 illegal."

Asked about his expectations for the meeting of the Iraqi National Assembly tomorrow and what the response will be if the assembly make a decision on a partial withdrawal, Hurd said: We will not accept anything less than a total and unconditional withdrawal, and this means that Iraq should also withdraw from the Warbah and Bubiyan islands.

Hurd said: Nothing less than the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions will do.

Concerning the statement yesterday by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that Syria will fight beside Iraq if it comes under aggression after its withdrawal from Kuwait, the UK secretary said that he has not yet examined this statement.

Hurd added that he does not think that Israel "will be part of the conflict unless Iraq attacks it."

Hurd said that Syria is among the Arab countries essential to the alliance against Iraq and it "(?will not give) Iraq a chance to exploit its aggression against Kuwait."

Concerning the Palestinian issue, Hurd said that his country supports the right of the Palestinian people's self-determination "while guaranteeing Israel's right for security."

Hurd welcomed the decision of the U.S. congress to authorize President George Bush to declare war should diplomatic efforts fail and the UN Security Council deadline end.

Hurd mentioned that on Tuesday, 15 January, the UK House of Commons will begin a debate of the role that the UK troops will play in case of war and the measures taken by the UK Government to tackle the Gulf crisis.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Damascus Visit

NC1301091591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Jan (WAKH)—Rashid 'Abdallah, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has left Abu Dhabi for Damascus today with a message from UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad concerning developments in the Gulf crisis. During the visit, 'Abdallah will also hold talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Delivers Message, Returns

NC1301195391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1845 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Jan (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah returned from Damascus tonight following a brief visit to Syria that lasted several hours.

'Abdallah delivered a verbal message on the Gulf crisis to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad from His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Armed Forces Command Calls Up Reserves

NC1101213791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2118 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 Jan (MENA)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] Armed Forces General Command has called on all university graduates who are UAE citizens and who have previously received military training at Armed Forces centers to report to the Armed Forces on 13 January.

An official statement to this effect was issued in Abu Dhabi tonight.

Yemen

Foreign Minister Talks With Baker, John Kelly

EA1301122091 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] The YEMENI NEWS AGENCY has learned that a telephone conversation took place between Brother Dr. Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of foreign affairs, and James Baker, U.S. secretary of state, in Cairo yesterday morning. In the (?afternoon), the brother foreign minister met John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state, and they reviewed developments in the Gulf crisis and the efforts our country is exerting for its peaceful solution.

Al-Bid Warns on Exacerbation of Gulf Situation

JN1101120991 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid has warned against the exacerbation of the situation in the Gulf region. He said: The explosion of the situation in the region will create new circumstances in which rulers will find it difficult to stay in their posts and on the thrones on which they are now sitting, and will create a condition in which the interests of those who seek to control the Arab people's wealth and resources cannot be guaranteed. He emphasized our country's firm stand on the Gulf crisis and its repeated calls to search for a peaceful solution under the Arab canopy. He said that surrender and the offering of unjust solutions is humiliating.

This emerged in the speech Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid gave yesterday morning to commanders, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the military and security units at the al-Wahdah Brigade in the city of al-Mukalla. He noted that the presence of foreign troops in the Arabian Gulf will only shake stability and security in the region and will threaten the pan-Arab sovereignty of Arab peoples.

He added: Nowadays, we live in a new era, the era of the new international relations in which the resolutions of the international bodies and the voice of logic and reason must dominate. He asserted that the Arab peoples are capable of determining their own future.

The brother Presidential Council vice chairman stressed that the Republic of Yemen makes a strong connection between the national and pan-Arab tasks. He said: We must adapt our circumstances according to developments, and we must fulfill our commitments toward the Arab national security and toward peace in the world.

He called for speeding up and completing the amalgamation of all organs of the new Yemeni state and for protecting unity and giving it its national and democratic meanings.

In his speech, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid referred to the tasks awaiting the armed and security forces. He stressed the need to fulfill those tasks in order to raise the combat preparedness and bolster the morale of the members of the armed and security forces and raise the level of caution to defend the national sovereignty and protect unity.

Oman's Bin-'Alawi Makes Statement, Departs

JN1301093091 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Brother Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Sanaa today after a visit to our country lasting several days. In a statement to SABA', he said that during his visit, he met with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid to discuss brotherly relations between our country and the Sultanate of Oman as well as ways of promoting these relations.

The Omani minister of state noted that the two sides agreed to activate joint action and allow the citizens of both countries to benefit from the existing brotherly relations between the two countries. He added that the way is open for further cooperation between the two fraternal countries on strong bases and that the fruit of these relations will be not limited but continuous, and will not be within set timeframes that end along with their seasons. He added that these relations will continue gradually but firmly. The Omani minister was seen off by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Omani ambassador in Sanaa.

Salih Receives Al-Bashir Gulf Crisis Message

EA1301202291 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Excerpt] This afternoon, Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, received in his office Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the Sudanese Revolution Command Council member and chairman of the Council's Bureau for Peace and Foreign Affairs, and the members of the delegation accompanying him. The brother Presidential Council chairman received a message from his brother, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, concerning bilateral relations, developments in the Arab arena, and the developments of the situation in the region caused by the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit of UN Secretary General

Perez de Cuellar Arrives

NC1201163791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1627 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar arrived in Baghdad this evening.

On hand to receive him at Saddam International Airport were Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent delegate to the United Nations' European Bureau in Geneva; and the UN representative in Baghdad.

Exchanges Views With 'Aziz

NC1201212391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening received UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the delegation accompanying him. They held an in-depth exchange of views about the situation in the Arab region.

Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent delegate to the United Nations European bureau in Geneva; the Foreign Ministry's under secretary; and the head of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations and Conference Department also attended the meeting.

AFP Reports Saddam Meeting

NC1301143791 Paris AFP in English 1431 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 13 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn opened a crucial round of talks here Sunday on the future of the Gulf with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, diplomatic sources reported.

The meeting, aimed at averting war between Iraq and U.S.-led multinational forces in the region, began at 3:30 p.m. (1230 GMT) and was still in progress more than an hour later.

Iraqi media maintained total silence on the talks.

INA Reports Meeting

NC1301210391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today.

President Saddam Husayn and Perez de Cuellar held an in-depth dialogue on the situation in the region. His excellency also reviewed in detail Iraq's political and legal stand on the current situation.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Latif Nasif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

Perez de Cuellar Prepares To Leave

NC1301193791 Paris AFP in English 1931 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 13 (AFP)—U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met for nearly four hours here Sunday with President Saddam Husayn in a bid to forge a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis.

Officials said Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who arrived Saturday and also met Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, was preparing to leave Baghdad.

Iraqi media maintained total silence on Mr. Perez de Cuellar's visit, which was arranged following the breakdown in Geneva last Wednesday of talks between Mr. 'Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

French officials said the secretary general would meet French President Francois Mitterrand and other key players in the Gulf crisis in Paris Monday on his way back to New York.

A U.N. Security Council resolution authorizes the use of force by the U.S.-led troops in the Gulf against Iraq after Tuesday if Baghdad has not withdrawn its occupation troops from Kuwait by then.

Departs 13 Jan

NC1301195791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1948 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad tonight following a visit to Iraq. He was seen off at Saddam International Airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the UN representative in Iraq.

Assembly To Hold 'Extraordinary Session' 14 Jan

NC1201154091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1524 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Dear listeners, here is an announcement from the National Assembly:

The National Assembly will hold an extraordinary session on the morning of Monday, 27 Jumadah al-Akhirah, 1411 of the Hegira, corresponding to 14 January 1991. The members of the National Assembly are requested to attend at the appointed time.

[Signed] Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly

Endorses No Concessions Policy

NC1401082091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] This morning, Iraq's National Assembly endorsed President Saddam Husayn's policy line of not making any concessions over Kuwait.

Salih Addresses Assembly

NC1401105291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0904 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—In the name of the people, the National Assembly has reiterated its allegiance to the nation's knight and leader Saddam Husayn and reaffirmed the people's readiness to wage jihad under his banner—the banner of right, justice, and well being—until the objectives of the people and nation for a dignified life have been achieved.

Addressing an emergency session, National Assembly speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih asserted the people's allegiance to the leader until the big dream of the Arabs, who have striven and made the greatest sacrifices for its realization, comes true. This dream is the greater Arab unity. Without unity, the Arabs will remain weak and indeed underestimated and powerless to protect themselves, their sanctities, and their resources from those lying in wait for them who have unjustly plundered and continue to plunder the resources of the Arab homeland.

The assembly speaker exhorted Arabs and Muslims to wage jihad beside the Iraqi people in their just struggle against the vicious and the infidel, led by the United States and the Zionist entity, as well as treasonous Arab leaders whose thrones have been undermined by the exposure of their treason.

Following is the text of Sa'di Mahdi Salih's speech:

Men said to them: A great army is gathering against you, and frightened them. But it only increased their faith. They said: For us God sufficeth, and he is the best disposer of affairs. [Koranic verse]

This session convenes as our dear homeland braces for an unjust, treacherous aggression by the United States and its allies among the Arab ranks, who have betrayed Arab values and principles and accepted the role of servant and subservient tool in the hands of the foreigner. The forces of evil, injustice, and aggression have assembled from East and West in one trench despite differences in color and affiliation, with one unholy common objective binding them: an attempt to extinguish the beam radiating from Iraq. They want to suffocate the voice of right coming loud and clear from your homeland, rejecting the injustice and tyranny symbolized by the United States and its protege Israel, and represented by truculent policies designed to dictate its will and realize its designs and illegitimate aims in the region. They want exclusive control of the world by controlling Arab oil and using it as an instrument of extortion.

Dear brothers and sisters. It is a historic confrontation between the forces of goodwill, justice, and right, led by your proud and steadfast Iraq under struggler knight Saddam Husayn, and the forces of evil, injustice, and aggression, led by the United States with its history of aggression, injustice, tyranny, and arrogance. The confrontation has placed the world at a crossroads. The fate of the entire world and the destiny of all the oppressed and persecuted peoples depend on it. Victory for Iraq and all the good people from the sons of the Arab and Islamic nation and from the free people of the world who have stood in the trench of justice will forever rid humanity of the injustice it has sufferred as a result of the U.S. control of its fate for a long time.

This confrontation has clearly and quickly revealed the falseness of the slogans used by the United States and its henchmen to deceive many peoples for a long time. The slogans of freedom, democracy, and human rights, which the West claims to defend and carry their banners, are merely hollow words devoid of meaning or significance. Through their actions and conduct, these countries have proved that they are using these slogans to deceive peoples and hence impose their unjust policies, to play with the fates of nations and peoples, and to rob them of their resources, contrary to human principles and rights. We have become bored with these slogans. We have heard them so often they are devoid of any spirit, essence, or human value.

Sisters and brothers. We are meeting today to declare to the Arab nation and all peoples, on behalf of our patient and struggling people, our rejection of threats and tyrannical force to impose the U.S. policies on us, rob us of our will, and infringe on our independence. We declare that the massing of forces on our borders and in the holy lands of the Arabs and Muslims in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] blatantly challenges the feelings of Arabs and Muslims, infringes on their sovereignty, and violates their honor and holy places. We underline the valiant Iraqi people's readiness to accept the challenge and confrontation; its insistence on its commitment to its rights and just aims; and its readiness to sacrifice all that is precious and valuable for the sake of its just causes, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue and the Arab Palestinian people's right to liberation, return, and establishment of its independent and free state over the territories of Palestine, all of Palestine.

We call on the international community, foremost among it the superpowers and major powers, to respect the peoples' will and choices and to stop intervening in their affairs or imposing policies that do not serve their interests or represent their just and legitimate ambitions and hopes.

Sisters, brothers: We should ask the Arab people, the Islamic peoples, and all peoples to unite and stand up to U.S. injustice and tyranny before it is too late and before the situation exceeds all limits. All people who love freedom and honor and who want justice, right, and peace in the world are asked today, more than ever, to declare their rejection of and challenge to aggressive U.S. policies and to strongly denounce the twisted logic which is represented by the double standards the United States pursues in its dealings with international issues and problems.

For the sake of freedom, human rights, and peace, without which the peoples of this region and the Third World have no hope whatever to realize their aspirations and ambitions—for all of this, we call upon all of the free men in the world to protest the aggressive U.S. policy in the region and to ask the United States to consider human interests and abandon everything that threatens international peace. They should also call upon it to withdraw its fleets and forces from the Arab Gulf and from the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and to spare the region the calamity of a war, of which only God knows the size of its losses or its duration—a war in the interest of no one except the United States, Israel, and the traitors of the nation among the Arab rulers whose thrones were shaken when their treason was exposed.

Dear brothers: From the podium of the National Assembly, we declare our pledge to the knight of the nation and its leader, Saddam Husayn, and our readiness to wage jihad under his banner—the banner of right, justice, and good—until the objectives of the people and nation for a dignified, honorable life have been achieved, and until the Arabs' greatest dream, for which they have long struggled and made the dearest, most precious sacrifices, namely Arab unity, has been attained. Without this objective the Arabs will always remain weak or submissive and unable to protect themselves, their sanctities, and their wealth from those who are waylaying them and who have been plundering the wealth of the Arab nation unjustly and effortlessly. So, proceed toward holy jihad, O heroic Iraqis.

Embrace jihad, o stalwart Arabs.

Proceed toward jihad, ye benevolent Arabs.

Let God is great be our eternal slogan in this just confrontation with the villains. God is great. The struggling, patient, steadfast Muslims shall remain dignified.

Peace by upon you.

Saddam Meets Command Council Members 12 Jan

NC1201104691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today met with some members of the Revolution Command Council. The meeting was attended by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

Chairs Armed Forces Command Meeting

NC1401090791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0856 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, last night chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command.

Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim attended.

Adds Phrase 'God Is Great' to Flag

NC1401090691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0832 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—The leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that the phrase "God is great" be added to the Iraqi flag.

This came while his excellency was chairing a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command yesterday. The president gave the order to add the phrase "God is great" while his excellency held an Iraqi flag. His eyes lit up and he traced with his venerable hand the phrase "God is great" on it, ordering that it should embroider the Iraqi flag, the banner of jihad and faith, and the standard of the faithful multitude against the infidel horde. The president's order also emphasizes divine concepts so that the Iraqi flag will remain the banner of jihad and monotheism.

AFP Reports Last U.S. Diplomats Leave Baghdad

NC1201112191 Paris AFP in English 1116 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, January 12 (AFP)—All remaining U.S. diplomats in Iraq were among 44 mostly Westerners from 13 countries to leave Baghdad on Saturday, the U.S. flight organizer said.

U.S. Charge d'Affaires Joseph Wilson and five other embassy staffers were on board an Iraqi Airways Boeing 727 that took off from Saddam International Airport for Frankfurt, Germany, in the early afternoon.

A total of 27 diplomats from the Swiss, Austrian, Canadian, Netherlands, Brazilian, Belgian, Finnish and Norwegian embassies were on the flight, the organizer said.

He said seven non-diplomatic employees at the U.S. mission were also on board along with four civilian passengers from Algeria, Ireland, Turkey and Iraq.

One diplomat, who declined to be identified, said: "We had all been afraid of being trapped in Baghdad." Until December Iraq had detained Westerners against their will to deter an attack by U.S.-led multinational forces.

"The plane was chartered by the United States government to evacuate its remaining embassy staff from Iraq as war clouds gathered over the Gulf three days ahead of the expiry of a United Nations deadline for Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait or face war.

The flight time to Frankfurt was expected to take four and a half hours, the U.S. organizer said.

Information Minister Replies to Cheney's 'Threats'

JN1101215191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2118 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has ridiculed U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney's stupid threats against Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the minister said that Cheney's statements are empty and not based on an accurate calculation of the military situation and the balance of power, nor are they based on an accurate awareness of the Iraqis' firmness and ability to confront the American aggression, should it be carried out against Iraq.

He added that Cheney will find that expectations are one thing and results another and that what he has read in the papers or heard over the radio is altogether different from the black fate awaiting him. The minister said that the Iraqis, who believe in God and are carrying jihad under the banners of President Saddam Husayn, will turn the flesh of the Americans into food for the desert beasts and predatory animals. He said: Let Cheney remember these statements so that we can settle accounts in future.

Saddam Replies to Syrian President's Message

NC1301172891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic:

Peace be upon you. I have read the letter you sent to us over the radio, as you said, despite the fact that you had the opportunity to send such a message to us through an envoy had you so desired, particularly as we have done this twice in the past year, first when we sent the justice minister as our representative on 21 May 1990 and again when we sent the oil minister who conferred with Syrian oil officials after 2 August. The reason for using this method is that we learn of your message at the same time others learn of it, and perhaps we read it after those who happened to hear it first over radio or television.

Anyway, such a method is not that bad if the intention is good; it is a method I favor under certain circumstance so that Arab public opinion, including our Iraqi people and the sons of our nation in Syria, can learn the facts. When I read your letter, Mr. President, images of the near and distant past came to my mind. It is only natural that we pay attention to the past because it constitutes the essence of personality, and the basis of history is one of the most important indicators of future steps and behavior. History can be used to predict the basic aspects of future behavior and stances, if this background is well known. The past of nations and peoples is part of their personality and individuals' pasts reveal key aspects of their future behavior. This is true except in the case of those who sinned in their past and then are helped by God in certain moments and under certain conditions after asking for repentance from the Almighty, because God is all-forgiving and merciful. This does not apply, however, to the type of people who do not learn the lessons of their (?nasty) behavior.

Because we are facing a great test of our nation, a test of the nation's ability to continue its march along the path of pride and virtue it has chosen, God willing, we cannot simplify the nation's issues or address some of its issues without putting the part within the whole, the particular within the general, and the past within the present.

Therefore, as we read your letter, it was inevitable that we would recall part of the past and not all of it [as heard], not so as to pause at it without moving or without fearing God in accepting interaction with any decisive initiative to circumvent the abominable occurrences of the past, but in order to reassure oneself that today's word is a course of action for the present and the future and that the word is connected to a sure deed relevant to its apparent meaning, and that we will only act [words indistinct] the lesson desired by God Almighty when He asked Moses to see His face. God Almighty said to Moses: Dost thou not then believe? He said: Yea, but to satisfy my own understanding. [Koranic verse]

On the basis of part of this divine lesson, as we said, and in order to provide a serious opportunity and not a mirage of words only, and regardless of the observations and arguments we have about the message, we picked a simple part of that past, the years of fighting between us and Iran, which we thank God have become an eloquent lesson in our life and that of our nation. They have become part of belief, goodwill, wisdom, peace, and all aspects of virtue, glory, gallantry, and heroism. We thank God that this war had ended. Then will he, between whom and thee was hatred, become as it were thy friend and intimate. [Koranic verse] God has reconciled the two sides on the basis of our initiative and the response of Iranian officials to make the past a lesson for building bridges of firm cooperation now and in the future, God willing.

I say: You remember, Mr. President, your answer to the criticism of your stand, how you said in your talks with the Arab delegations and figures who visited you that you were concerned about sparing the Iraqi people the dangers of war and that you would fight at the side of the Iraqi Army if Iranian armies crossed the borders. Meanwhile, you worked to let the war continue. When the Iranian armies occupied Iraqi territory and Iraqi cities, you became more optimistic about the possibility of the fall of what you termed the regime in Iraq and you raised the slogan that the war is the means to achieve this. When this was happening, you were holding tripartite meetings to plot against Iraq during that tribulation, and the very same thing is happening today—namely, your tripartite meetings with other parties and the American coordinators.

Are we today looking at a message that is searching, as is said, for an honorable and noble opportunity for the Arab nation, or is the message merely an extension of past policies? Duty requires that we should not close the door of optimism to the possibility that any Arab will wake up—at this crowded crossroads facing all Arabs—to crowd at and enter the door of nobility, dignity, honor, and great principles of jihad instead of crowding at the doors of shame, bribery, and loss of all values of the real man, the noble Arab, and the Muslim believer.

Mr. President, we become very happy and hope grows within us when the crowd of believers increases and cohesiveness becomes stronger [word indistinct]. A stand in this direction is the one that achieves all honest deeds, including unity of the nation which we believe lies basically in unity of belief, posture, and fate. I do not think that we differ in describing the truth of our situation when we see that the nation as a people is fully united, including the Syrian people, in virtue and the jihad imposed on us by the course we have selected for ourselves together with the great Iraqi people, thus strengthening our backs and arms with our belief and reliance on God, the omnipotent.

History will record if President Hafiz al-Asad has interacted with and joined this course with real belief and reliance on God so as to become strong and increase the strength of the ranks of believers and to spend his remaining years in honor. We also beseech God Almighty to grant us and our nation a glorious end and uninterrupted faith for the rest of our lives.

Mr. President, we have no wish to impose on you or those listening to this reply letter of ours by going into the background of things and how they developed until what God wants has come about for those who opted for his path of promised glory by achieving an overwhelming victory over the gathering of infidelity and infidels, traitors and heretics, and hypocrites and apostates, God willing, no matter how great the equipment and how many the numbers of this gathering. Thus, God will make of them a lesson the way He did with the army of Ibraha [pre-Islamic Abyssinian who attempted to storm the Ka'bah]—a lesson they failed to learn, having themselves become corrupt and corrupted others.

I do not want to go over the background on an occasion such as this, nor do I want to go into how God wants the 19th governorate in the Iraq of faith and dignity to be a major arena for battle on behalf of faith and right in the name of God and the nation, in the name of Palestine, Lebanon, and the Golan, and in the name of the downtrodden all over the world. This battle will also be in the name of those wronged by the foolish, infidel, and accursed U.S. Administration, and of all those who meet with treachery, injustice, and oppression at the hands of the Zionists and certain corrupt isolated Arabs until the Arabs have become divided into two camps—the camp in which God desires faith with its attendant good, pride, and sovereignty, where there is no oppression or oppressed, no injustice or unjust, no torment or tormented, and no destitute languishing helplessly in their destitution; and the camp of infidelity and infidels, the debauchers, the corrupt, the Zionists, and the criminals who have turned their backs on the nation and exchanged honor for ill-gotten gain. May all of them be accursed by God, when the gap separating the two camps and gatherings has so widened and is ever widening so that there is no room left for neutral onlookers among the Arab nation. What [words indistinct] the opposing camp?

And yet, if anyone wants to discuss the nation's affairs to determine the positions that serve it through dialogue and set out the commitments of the Arab leaders who are prepared to commit themselves, we are available to achieve this with all sincerity. Then will he, between whom and thee was hatred, become as it were thy friend and intimate. [Koranic verse] Will you be doing this? It is true thou wilt not be able to guide every one, whom thou lovest; but God guides those whom He will. And He knows best those who receive guidance. [Koranic verse] Then you will be able to see all the background from a new perspective. If you are satisfied with someone, you are likely to turn a blind eye to his mistakes, but if you are dissatisfied with someone, you are likely to spot his faults.

You will then realize that those who split from the ranks of the gathering of believers will be in an unenviable position, having failed the faithful and God by letting His chance and history's slip through their fingers.

Therefore, the 19th governorate has become an arena of battle and has lined up with the other Iraqi governorates to broaden and entrench the basis of faith and to lend, in the name of God, additional reinforcement in this grand battle in which the human being in this nation and his usurped land will be liberated so that the nation will emerge, after obtaining a new lease on life and spirit, with its feet firmly on the ascending road. No obstacle will be capable of stopping the ascending march, God willing.

I had never imagined, Mr. President, that you were under the same illusion as Husni [Mubarak] and the others, when they imagined that we demand a surety for our heroic, patient army or for our dear people, to protect us inside Iraq from the aggression of the aggressors in exchange for a token of humiliation which we would offer, God forbid. And despite the fact that the dear Syrian Army is the nation's army when it has faith, we assure you that the army of faith in Iraq is capable of protecting its land, honor, and virtue as well as the nation's honor. No other army beside the faithful Iraqi Army will be able to battle the gathering of the infidels unless it has faith in the same principles in which the Iraqi Army believes and unless its faith is heightened in mind and spirit to the level obtained by the Iraqi Army.

God is omnipotent.

Peace be upon you.

[Signed] The slave of God, the faithful Saddam Husayn

[Dated] 26 Jumada al-Akhirah, 1411 of the Hegira, corresponding to 13 January 1991

Saddam Makes Statement to Iraqi Journalists

NC1401022091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2235 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has emphasized that victory in war or peace will be achieved for the nation with God's help.

During his meeting today with the chiefs of the Iraqi information departments, newspaper chief editors, and information officials, which was attended by Information and Culture Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, his excellency said it is natural for the nation to seek to achieve its goals and it hopes to achieve them without war, but at the present time, when U.S. law wants to dominate the world and place it under its hegemony, it appears that the United States wants to utilize this new privilege by brandishing its big stick, which it has used against others and succeeded, in the belief that it can succeed with the same method against the nation, including Iraq.

His excellency added: I do not believe that we need to underline that such a method will not succeed as envisaged. Such a method cannot be used on the land of the Arab nation. Not even in circumstances of complete estrangement can this U.S. policy succeed against the Iraqis.

President Saddam Husayn said that the question at present is not a local or national one but has become the question of a nation from beginning to end. Its repercussions from beginning to end will be positive for the nation as a whole, God willing.

His excellency emphasized that it is natural that a just solution should be found to the Palestinian issue, in the sense that the restoration of Palestine to its people is the basis of a solution if complete and comprehensive peace is sought for the region and international legitimacy. This means that action must be taken on the basis of the defense of international law and fairness for which the United Nations was established. We, as Arabs, find it appropriate that this be applied objectively.

The president added that if it is desired that international law be applied selectively, with double standards, and and on the basis of what suits the circumstances of the major powers, then it is natural that the nation will be the main victim in the human domain.

The following is the text of President Leader Saddam Husayn's interview with Iraqi journalists:

The president: Poets also are journalists. Is that not so? We have met with a number of foreign journalists, but we have not met with Iraqi journalists. Especially in these complicated circumstances, Iraqi journalists also need to express their views through their queries, inquiries, and questions.

I would have liked you to have more time—sufficient time in these circumstances—to put your questions and queries but, as you know, we are busy all the time. However, naturally, many matters need to be revised these days—matters that were revised a week ago now need to be revised again. Nevertheless, victory will be for the nation whether in war or peace, with God's help. It is also natural that the nation will seek to realize its goals and it hopes to achieve them without war, but at the present time, when U.S. law wants to dominate the world and place it under its hegemony, it appears that, in addition to such efforts in all fields, there is a concommitant effort for the United States to take this new illegitimately wrested privilege so it can brandish its big stick, which it has used against others and succeeded, in the belief that it is capable of using the same method successfully against the nation, including Iraq.

However, I do not believe that we need to underline that the Arab nation cannot be an arena in which such a method can achieve the envisaged success or near success. There can be no absolute estrangement under any circumstances.

We speak of absolutes, but policy does not tend to absolutes because of well-known considerations. What we are talking about, however, is not policy but principles and destiny. For this reason, we say that this U.S. policy will absolutely not succeed with the Iraqis. Naturally, the question at present is not a local, national, or regional one as some situations are often described. Rather, it has become a question of a nation from beginning to end. God willing, it will be a question of a nation that will have positive repercussions on the nation as a whole. The justness of this question is evident from all aspects to whoever seeks justice; fairness is also obvious to whoever seeks fairness. The practical aspect in it is also sufficiently clear to whoever is practically, justly, and fairly inclined to solve the region's issues which have been waiting for a solution for a long time. It is natural for us to say, and not only in accordance with the sentimental national considerations—which are a legitimate part of our nation's approach toward the Palestinian issue—that a just solution must be found to the Palestinian issue, in the sense that the restoration of Palestine to its people is the basis for the solution if a complete and comprehensive peace is sought for the region and international legitimacy. That means that action must be based on the defense of international law and fairness for which the United Nations was established.

We, as Arabs, find it appropriate that this law be applied objectively. However, if it is intended that international law will be applied selectively, with double standards, and on the basis of what suits the circumstances of the major powers, it is natural that the nation will be the primary victim in the human domain.

Therefore, the continous massacre of Palestinians—children, women, old people, and others—shown daily on television will become accepted as normal, whereas, in other cases, the thrones and foundations of states are shaken.

The president continues: I do not want to elaborate on this subject so that I can give you a chance to ask your questions freely and at liberty.

This is a new approach for you, but you and I will get used to it, and then it will affect others. When we are trained on it, it will definitely have its impact on others. Let us start the training. Let us you and I get on with the practice of questions and answers .

Comrade Lutayyif, come closer so that you also can see your brothers.

There is a microphone in front of each of you. Press the button, and a red light will come on. When you have finished talking, press the same button to give a chance to your colleague.

Correspondent: Mr. President, I would like to refer to the changes that have cast their shadows on the past few days. The Americans have made much of the Senate and House debate, going as far as to call it a historic session.

A journalist watching this must wonder if Bush really needed such a resolution by the U.S. Congress, as everything indicates that he has already made up his mind on the war option. One wonders if a decision is an asset or liability to the U.S. President, placing on him alone the onus of launching aggression against Iraq and triggering war in this region. As part of the psychological warfare over the past few days, the U.S. media seemed to suggest that the Congressional endorsement represented a victory for Bush. Do you view it, as we do, as a liability to Bush so as to make him historically responsible for such a blunder?

Correspondent: Mr. President, there had been much speculation in the press about the UN secretary general's visit to Baghdad—something to be expected under the circumstances. What is the nature of the visit and what do you expect it will produce? Thank you.

Correspondent: Mr. President, we have learned that a team of U.S. specialists in counterpropaganda—drawing on the hundreds of interviews and speeches made by your excellency—has constructed a 12-minute tape recording in which you call on the Iraqi Armed Forces to lay down their arms and surrender in the interest of the Iraqi people and Arab nation. The cassette tape would be played on enemy broadcasts beamed once the Iraqi media facilities were taken out. How do you react? Thank you.

The president: In issues of war and peace—whichever of the two options is the more likely—whatever the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives pass will not be decisive in either direction because the U.S. President, under the U.S. Constitution, has strong powers. As you are aware, there is neither a council of ministers nor a prime minister in the United States. The executive powers of the council of ministers and of the presidency are all vested in the president.

Therefore, the position of the U.S. President is strong when it comes to the issue of war and peace. According to our calculations, we did anticipate the possibility of fighting with the U.S. armies during the 72 hours that followed 2 August. In other words, we had our plans to confront such contingencies during a time not exceeding 72 hours. I recall, for example, that comrade Sa'di Mahdi, Regional Command member and official in charge of the party in Baghdad, had drawn up a plan according to which Baghdad could be evacuated within 72 hours if fighting broke out. However, I asked him to reduce it to 48 hours instead of 72 hours.

Therefore, we would not have been surprised had this military measure taken place after the decision of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives or before that. In other words, such a contingency would not have taken us by surprise because of the aggressive spirit prevailing in the U.S. establishments and of the premedidated objectives to harm Iraq, the solid base in the nation. This is something we know and happened frequently long before this. We even expected, for example, an Israeli aggression in 1986.

The Air Force has been trained to confront such a contingency since 1986 to reply to Israel. We discussed this with a number of Arab brothers so that they will be aware if we use their airspace to reply to an Israeli aggression.

Therefore, war is expected as long as there are those who want to attack and commit aggression. It is an assumption and is always in our minds and plans for confrontation. The U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives resolution could be a development in the U.S. domestic policy, but as far as we are concerned, the U.S. congressional resolution involves no development that requires any further action on our part, because all our calculations have been made on the basis that the war could take place 72 hours after 2 August. War has not taken place so far, however, and we thank God if it does not take place at all. However, the decisions made by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate are internal and do not add anything for us.

Therefore, when those decisions were made we did not carefully examine our military, economic, and political plans because we did expect such a contingency within the two or three days that followed 2 August 1990. But they wanted to put it in that information and propaganda framework, thinking that they could intimidate the Iraqis as if the Iraqis did not expect the possibility of war before this stand. As far as the question of jurisdiction is concerned, they themselves told the U.S. President: We must discuss with you whether the jurisdiction is yours or ours.

We have experienced such thing from the U.S. President; we know that he is now searching for malevolent and not benevolent ways.

For us, it does not add anything important.

The UN secretary general visited Baghdad and I met with him. He explained that no one entrusted him with this task; he came on his own initiative. He said he came carrying nothing and desiring only to listen. He said that before coming to Baghdad he met four times with the U.S. President and with the French president. We presented to him our position on all political and legal aspects of some subjects, whether they related to the period before or after 2 August and up till now. We explained our position, which you know and which you have understood clearly and sufficiently. We encouraged him to continue his visits and dialogue if there is a desire to search for means to peace. It must be made known that the peace we seek is a comprehensive peace, which has the Palestinian issue at the forefront. As for the media ploys comrade Sa'di Mahdi has spoken of, these are expected. Indeed we expect more.

If you remember, in recent years they did the same kind of thing with Iranian television. They interrupted Iranian television and a review of an honor guard by the shah of Iran's son was shown. This appeared on Iranian television. With this electronic gimmick, they were able to interfere with Iranian television and show the son of the shah inspecting an honor guard and addressing the Iranian people. Thus, they disturbed the Iranians who started wondering how the shah's son could be in Iran. They said: This means that he has staged a coup, taken power, and is inspecting an honor guard—and we do not know all this.

They can do such a thing. Not only can they exploit statements but they can imitate voices as well. They are expected even to imitate Saddam Husayn's voice.

On a previous occasion, before 2 August, I listened to a tape of someone imitating my voice. Of course, anyone who listens to my voice will know the difference. He imitated my voice in some telephone calls with Arab leaders, such as: How are you, Mister? Are you in good health? Such things can be imitated. But when speech is not in this context, on something he did not practice, he may not be able to perfect it. However, they can imitate my voice to a certain extent and broadcast appeals from radio stations this way. For instance, they might interfere with Iraqi television to tell the Iraqis to surrender. But the Iraqis know that it is unlike Saddam Husayn to ask them to surrender.

They might issue a call in my voice to the Iraqi Army and say: Withdraw from Kuwait to spare blood, and so forth. Here also it is not like Saddam Husayn to tell the Iraqi people to withdraw from their own territory or from the arenas of honor and from battles against falsehood and aggression.

We rely on the Iraqis' well-known awareness and calmness. I believe that all these gimmicks will fail. They might use them, but they will most certainly be foiled by the Army and people, because our people and Army have sufficient awareness to foil these ploys. In any case, we are not out of touch but alert, God willing. If a gimmick of that sort appears, we will foil it directly.

Correspondent: U.S. officials, their allies, and their agents are boasting of their so-called technological supremacy and the so-called high capability of jamming the headquarters and the Armed Forces, of striking from a long distance, of comprehensive destruction, and of the so-called lightning war. What is your comment on these boasts?

The president: Of course, we cannot say that, for example, we are superior to the Americans in electronics, or that we are superior to them in firing from planes at a distance, or in the range of some planes. Our planes can reach wherever we want in their range. Our planes and their means of delivery to the targets we want within the operations arena are good. We are part of the Middle East, which is the operations arena, and within this arena there is nothing far from us in any place that will thrust itself into fighting. There is no area in the Middle East region our planes cannot reach.

Hence, we are satisfied with our aircraft. Our missiles can cover almost the entire area of operations and reach their targets easily. Our planes have the capability to fire from a distance. They can hit their targets from dozens of kilometers away. It is not the Americans alone who have these weapons. We have them too; some are Iraqi-made, others have been developed by Iraq, and others are foreign-made. Of course, they have more planes than we have. Our planes are not few and the most important thing is the men's faith and their expertise. Each one of them equals 10. We follow the Koran. What does the Koran say? For a man to fight with less than his ability is unacceptable. The Koran says one equals 10. If one equals 10, and we are superior to them in the number of their planes and pilots—even if one does not equal 10, but less than that—we still have numerical superiority. But these are our lands and they are the aliens. Right is on our side and they are the aggressors. We have eight years of fighting experience. Not one of their pilots has any possible fighting experience. Certainly, no one coming against us has ever had any fighting experience.

At any rate, despite superiority in certain aspects of technology and electronics, they must be tested in the arena. No theoretical calculations drawn up in the clear climate of the West—not clear of clouds or fog, but clear of dust—match the climate of Iraq and Saudi Arabia, which is full of dust. More important than this will be the clouds and smoke of the battle. Many of you have certainly seen the field of operations itself.

They visualize the field of operations through a drawing, a picture, or through films. But for us, we have lived it and smelled gunpowder with our own noses. The person who has smelled gunpowder is different from the one who has watched Rambo films.

At any rate, these renovations will be introduced into the weapons. For example, we have field glasses able to show things at a distance of 30 km. However, where is the opportunity for a person to see a man, a tank, or another vehicle at a distance of 30 km even if the field glasses can, theoretically, show things that far? A battlefield full of smoke and dust will not allow a person to see things at a distance of 30 km.

Therefore, these theoretical properties will have to be subordinated to practical considerations. I must tell you about experiences from real war. For example, during the eight-year war—certainly the Iranians had similar experiences because this is the most recent war in the world—we used some weapons that had been used in World War II. I mean old weapons. We used a six-knot field gun called "abu al-lawkah." It had wooden wheels. We had it in storage and had been thinking of throwing it and its ammunition into the sea.

Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, the army chief of staff at that time, said: Let us place this gun as a source of firepower along the Shatt al-'Arab waterway, since its projectile can reach all the way across Shatt al-'Arab and it can be of use. It actually was of use. When the battle begins, not all sophisticated weapons can play a practical role in the actual details of fighting. Rather, the decisive role in field action will remain that of infantry, armor, guns, and tanks. In all conditions the decisive role will be that of the will of men.

We are satisfied with the modernity of our large number of weapons. Our Army is modern, large, and superior. If the Americans are superior in some areas, such as the ability to fire missiles from planes at a distance, this ability will be used as much as possible. However, it will not at any rate be able to decide the battle in their favor at all. With the help of God, victory will be yours. This is decided.

Correspondent: In our follow-up of the news, Mr. President, we have seen that the enemy is continuing his psychological warfare and his diplomatic actions are extensive—Perez de Cuellar in Baghdad...President Yasir 'Arafat....

The president: Sorry, but let me interrupt you. Notice some of the things they are doing. You have certainly heard how they floated a report last week saying that six Iraqi planes fled and landed in Saudi Arabia.

The minister of culture and information: They also said they were going to show a film about this after half an hour. I followed this.

The president: Did they say that they were going to show the film after half an hour? Then they said that the planes were helicopters, and then they said that they were ordinary aircraft and there were six pilots in them. When I heard the report, I explained it. I said perhaps the air was dusty and when the young men went up in their planes—the desert requires very accurate navigation—perhaps they lost the way and landed in Saudi territory accidentally. At any rate it never occurred to me there were six. I said perhaps it was one or two helicopters.

I did not make a direct denial. Even one of my aides who was next to me asked: Can you imagine this? I said it was impossible, but perhaps they lost the way. I considered this possibility.

The president continues: When I asked the secretary if an Air Force pilot had strayed into Saudi Arabia, he said the report was groundless. To which I said, it cannot be so; the source of the news is the Voice of America, or the CNN network. The point is that it was carried by a U.S. news organization. I said they cannot have invented this lie. The secretary said yesterday and this morning that the story was confirmed as baseless. Even the Saudi defense minister has had to deny it.

Then you have certain news agencies and radio stations slanting their reports. It may be that it is lost on some of you, but those in power can tell when expressions and words are rephrased so as to misrepresent the picture without the listener spotting the distortion. Sometimes an item carried by a given station is phrased differently when it is rebroadcast. I am not talking about an editor or announcer receiving an item to read unrehearsed on the air. I am talking about a story given a different flavor in its second broadcast.

Correspondent: The enemy continues to show that it is psychologically bankrupt. In the meantime, a flurry of diplomatic activity continues. Perez de Cuellar is in Baghdad and President Yasir 'Arafat rules out war, repeating himself three times. Waldheim is in the Arab region, with Muscat his last port of call. He is not ruling out an initiative of his own. At the same time, speaking for the EC, the foreign minister of Luxembourg said the European Community has not given up on a solution, and may come up with an initiative of its own. In the context of the enemy psychological warfare, the U.S. assistant secretary of state is now in the occupied land, and the Zionist enemy issues threats to Iraq. We know, Mr. leader President, that faithful Iraq has a clear position. But do you think this flurry of diplomatic activity serves a useful purpose?

The president: I stand for openness, but I would like the Iraqis to be discreet and let the politicians get on with their work.

It is now six months since 2 August. Why is it that no military action has been taken against Iraq? Is it because they are against it? Is it that Bush does not want to order military action? No. Bush is an extremely vicious man.

Is it that the American public opinion does not want it? Bush enjoyed more American public support in the first week than he does now. His attempts to thwart the French in the second and third weeks could have fared better than now, and the same goes for Soviet public opinion. The same may also be said of Spanish and Italian public opinion in the first and second weeks.

Why have they not undertaken a military action yet, when they want to initiate a military action and are urged to do so? It is also certain that Zionism wants such a thing. The basic reason is you and the nation. When they look at the operations arena and the depth of Iraq in the nation, they discover clearly that this idea that exists in their imagination, that is, what they achieved in

Panama, will not be achieved in Iraq. This is the main reason they have not yet initiated war!.

This reason, then, should make you refrain from listening to any political whisper, word, or gossip. You have nothing to do with this. Kuwait is yours; it is for its people to die and live on. Hold fast to it. It is no longer an issue about a governorate and a part of Iraq; it has become a symbol of the whole nation and a symbol of a confrontation and an area of honor. Here one should focus intently on the objective and step up the capabilities that make them fear war when they look at the operations arena, when they see all of the people vigilant and prepared for sacrifice, and when they see that every member of the Armed Forces is ready for sacrifice and fighting and each one of them psychologically and technically prepared for the confrontation when it takes place.

This is what makes them reluctant to go to war. However, when they imagine that the enemies and the preparations are not up to the required level, then they will commit the crime of war.

Correspondent: As part of the ongoing psychological campaign, they are now talking about a last-minute surprise, although I am certain that that they will find the surprise in the confrontation arena. However, I want... [changes thought] I hope that the leader president would....

The president: What is this surprise?

Correspondent: That is how they are talking this week as part of the psychological warfare. They have called it the last-minute surprise.

The president: Mr. 'Abd-al-Amir. You are an Iraqi and a politician. You know that we are the kind of people who do not receive surprises and initiatives through pressure and threats. We are not like that. Nonetheless, what is it that can surprise us?

We are saying that we want peace and do not want war; we want our rights and will not relinquish them; and we want Palestine and will not give it away; that is, we have nothing to bargain for. We want our rights in full. I mean that we do not want a certain right, for example, in exchange for giving up another right. We do not have two rights, so that we can give them one in exchange for another. We want our rights in full. We want all the rights of the nation. We want the rights of the Iraqis and we cling to these. Similarly, we want the rights of the Palestinians; we will struggle for them and we will not relinquish them.

Peace, then, means that we are ready to carry out our duty as part of the international community when it becomes clear to us that the basic foundation uniting this community is international law and international legitimacy, with a single yardstick for all issues and not according to a selective criterion. When this happens, this international legitimacy will certainly recognize the rights of the Iraqis the way they hope and our Arab Palestine will be restored.

A last-minute initiative is up to the Americans because they are the ones now raising the slogan of war. If they are bent on war, no one can prevent it because matters have reached such a pass. Iraq and those who support it are on one side, and the United States and those with it are on the other.

Iraq talks peace, wants peace. As for the United States, Bush has not yet accepted any talk [about peace], as the information minister has said. He has certainly not talked at all about peace, and if did talk about it, it was in the sense of capitulation: the capitulation of the Arabs and Iraq.

The age of capitulation that troubled the world has gone forever. What has capitulation left the Arabs? It has caused trouble for them. As to Iraq, there is nothing called capitulation either in its lexicon or in the July revolution lexicon. Our course, the past 22 years has been this: We do not bargain over justice and when we make a mistake we correct it publicly. We have nothing to bargain over because our course is one of right.

Correspondent: I have a personal question, if you permit me, Mr. President. I remember a question addressed to the president leader some years ago; namely, what is the sweetest victory or achievement made? He replied nationalization, and I believe not because oil is a basic and important material in the life of Iraqis and Arabs but...

The president: [interrupting] It is the basis for victory.

Correspondent: ...The extent of the challenge and the nature of the forces linked to the vast forces of imperialism. A personal question: Do we feel the sweetness of the great battle when we are so strong and stand as Iraqis under our leader and say no to imperialism and have our full rights?

The president: God Almighty says: Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. [Koranic verse] Therefore, God Almighty has not dropped fighting as duty but urges it when it becomes inevitable in defense of justice or when it becomes impossible for justice to appear without fighting. As to fighting, God says ye dislike it, that is, we do not rush to fight but are forced to fight when there can be no justice or virtue without it. It is exactly with this spirit that we are facing the possibility of fighting, with this spirit and this faith. It is natural for us not to be distressed when we are certain and confident at this level of faith in the correctness of our stand while the opposite rank has all its known vices.

Correspondent: Mr. President, the world is witnessing huge demonstrations and protests against Bush's policy of aggression and war. Can Bush ignore these hundreds of thousands of voices and commit aggression? What is your excellency's concept of the role the Arab and Islamic masses can undertake in response to the aggression? Thank you, sir.

The president: Let us look at the political map, if a comparison can be made, and see the people in the world. If war erupts, it will be because of politicians and not because of the interests of the peoples in the West. Peoples, such as the ones in the West, have no interest in a war. If war erupts, it would technically be in the interests of Zionism or in the interests of politicians or some of them in the West who are pushing for it. It is not in the interest of the peoples in the West to launch war or to see war erupt. Evidence of this is that war has not erupted yet but anti-war demonstrations are staged. What would happen if war erupts?

There is no war now, and no one has died yet from the exchange of fire between the Iraqi and U.S. armies. All right, what would happen if war erupts and coffins start to arrive in the United States?

Since 2 August, the crisis has been afflicting many states economically because of the rise in oil prices—an increase that Iraq did not cause.

Of course, Bush always tells lies. One such lie is that Iraq is the cause. Why, brother? If Iraq were left alone it would have sold oil, and you and others would have bought it. There would be no problems. But the cause of these economic difficulties is the blockade that he imposed on Iraqi oil.

When Iraqi oil was eliminated from the market, a crisis was naturally precipitated. Therefore, many states were harmed by the economic crisis and many problems appeared in the world, which you read about. This is one of many repercussions of the new international crisis. Now what would happen if war were to break out?

As far as Iraq is concerned, it will not be easy for us if an Iraqi or a good American receives even a scratch. As we said earlier, we do not want war. We have had other approaches presented to us and a way out that would preserve our national and pan-Arab rights, our dignity and sovereignty. We would be satisfied. But if war breaks out it will be in the form of an aggression against us, and then it will be our duty to defend ourselves. Just consider the U.S. Congress discussion and the slight majority who voted in favor of the resolution that places power in the President's hand. This majority has existed in the past. Bush enjoyed this majority and dispatched his army because of it. He sent them to Hafar al-Batin, as our people in the south say, without asking the Congress or the Senate. What happened in the Congress and the Senate is a domestic matter. We did not pin hopes on it and did not base our plans on it. Therefore, these resolutions did not change the psychological, political, military, or economic aspects—therefore, no changes so far. All this clamor is just over the possibility of war. If war were to break out, what would the repercussions be and what would the changes in the West itself be? As for the Islamic and Arab society, there will be large-scale changes.

Only the worthy will be preserved. You will see how the seats of power will fall like the forces in the battle. You will always be glorious and triumphant. Palestine is coming closer to us as we draw closer to it, God willing.

Victory will be for you, for your nation and cause. Not only Kuwait but Palestine will be coming, the Golan, and Lebanon, God willing. All of them will be a part of the glorious pan-Arab basis, increasing the esteem, firmness, and resourcefulness of the power of the nation, which will always be looking toward the future.

I would like to continue talking to you but I have other meetings.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad for Talks

NC1201101891 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 12 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat arrived here Saturday for talks with Iraqi officials on the Gulf crisis and a possible meeting with United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, reliable Palestinian sources said.

His visit comes ahead of an 11th-hour peace bid by the U.N. chief and one day after President Saddam Husayn reaffirmed that a solution to the Gulf crisis should be linked to a Middle East settlement.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, currently in Amman, Jordan, was flying to Baghdad later Saturday for talks with President Husayn.

Palestinian sources said that Mr. 'Arafat would also have talks with "certain foreign dignitaries currently visiting Iraq." The former president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, is also in Baghdad.

On Friday [11 January], Mr. 'Arafat had talks in Tunis with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on peace prospects in the Gulf following the failure of U.S.-Iraq negotiations in Geneva on Wednesdasy [9 January].

The PLO blamed the failure of the Geneva talks on the "obstinacy of the American administration".

Discusses Geneva Talks With 'Aziz

NC1201151791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. They discussed recent developments in the region and reviewed the issues discussed in Geneva.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister pointed that, during the Geneva talks, the United States again demonstrated its double standards and biased stance in dealing with the region's issues, particularly through its refusal to deal with the Arab Palestinian people's issue in accordance with international law and its continued and unlimited support for the expansionist Zionist entity at the expense of the Arab Palestinian people's legitimate and just rights in their homeland. He said that this proves that the United States bears responsibility for the absence of peace, security, stability, and justice in the region.

Tariq 'Aziz emphasized Iraq's principled and unchanging stance which calls for dealing with all regional issues, foremost among which is the Palestinian issue, according to the same standard and on the bases of justice and fairness.

The meeting was attended by Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent delegate to the United Nations' European bureau in Geneva and head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department; 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, president 'Arafat's adviser and Palestinian ambassador to Baghdad.

Holds News Conference

NC1301140391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—Palestine president Yasir 'Arafat has called on the international community to shoulder its historic responsibility and spare the region a destructive war that threatens peace and stability in the world. Today, at a news conference in Baghdad attended by correspondents of Arab and world news agencies, newspapers, and television networks in Baghdad, 'Arafat stressed the need for serious efforts to find an integrated solution to all problems of the Arab region, especially the Palestinian issue, the crux of the conflict in the region.

'Arafat pointed to the efforts of governments and world figures to avoid war in the Gulf region. He said: We must all double our efforts to avoid war and reach a just and comprehensive solution to all issues of the region—Palestine, the Gulf, Lebanon, and the Golan. He held the U.S. Administration responsible for obstructing the international efforts aimed at finding a solution to the region's problems on a just and clear basis guaranteeing that they are linked. He stressed the need for the international community to deal seriously with the Arab nation's issues and warned of dealing with these issues with double standards that complicate the crisis and distance it from an appropriate solution. He noted that the PLO is going ahead in implementing its political program endorsed by the Palestine National Council on the state of Palestine's stand on the peace efforts to solve the Palestinian issue. He demanded that international forces be deployed to protect Palestinian women and children and Islamic sanctities in accordance with the UN resolutions on this issue.

Reportedly Saves UN Mission

AU1401091991 Vienna Domestic Service in German 0600 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Hans Benedict report from Baghdad]

[Excerpt] If the peace plan of UN Secretary Perez de Cuellar has any chance of survival, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat helped save it. Yesterday evening 'Arafat prevented talks between the UN secretary general and President Saddam Husayn from failing. This may merely have been a relatively superficial success because Saddam Husayn commented neither in public nor in any other binding way. Maybe he will do that during the last hours before the expiration of the UN deadline. In Baghdad rumors persist that he plans a surprise move that will solve the Gulf crisis and put the United States at a disadvantage. [passage omitted]

PNC's Al-Za'nun Stresses Solidarity With Iraq

JN1001124291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met today with Salim al-Za'nun, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council.

During the meeting, the National Assembly speaker reviewed the imperialist and Zionist conspiracy led by the United States of America against Iraq and the Arab nation. He stressed that the Palestine question is at the top of the issues that must be resolved in order to spread security, stability, and peace, and it constitutes the key to the resolution of all problems in the Arab region.

Salim al-Za'nun, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council, underscored his solidarity with the people and leadership of Iraq and said he stands in the same trench to confront the U.S.-Zionist aggression. He referred to the need to adopt leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August 1990 initiative as the basis for resolving all problems in the Arab region.

The meeting was attended by the ambassador of the state of Palestine to Iraq.

PLF Leader Congratulates Saddam on Army Day

NC1201122491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a congratulatory cable from Abu-al-'Abbas [Mahmud 'Abbas], secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF]. The cable says:

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the heroic Iraqi Army, on behalf of the PLF command, officials, and strugglers, I send to your excellency, to the heroic Iraqi people, and the Iraqi valiant Army the warmest regards and wishes. We look forward to congratulating you and ourselves on the definite victory that lies ahead.

Comrade commander:

At this crucial time for our Arab people, this occasion acquires a special meaning for the honorable strugglers and the true men of our glorious Arab people. The heroic Iraqi forces, in all services, are a bulwark for defending the Arab nation and assuring it of an honorable future befitting the history of that nation and its great sacrifices on the road to liberation, freedom, unity, and progress. It is a great honor for the Iraqi fighter to enter, crowned with glory, through the gates of history, under your prudent leadership. The Iraqi fighter has become a model to be followed in defending the nation and challenging the forces of evil and aggression embodied in international imperialism. American imperialism is soon going to experience failure and brood over its routing defeat at the hands of the Iraqi fighter who has the advantage of faith, resolve, military power, and the guidance of a brave and shrewd leadership on his side.

Comrade commander:

The value of freedom and the willingness to become a martyr for it can be fully grasped only by those who seek freedom and martyrdom, foremost among whom are the honorable sons of our glorious nation across the massive Arab world and particularly in our occupied Palestinian land, where the people of the stones have emerged as a struggling potential. Our people are confident that great Iraq, its extraordinary leader, and its valiant army are a national force that will defend our just and legitimate cause and contribute to the liberation of our usurped national soil as well as to the return of our uprooted people from the diaspora to build their independent Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem and under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

It is a great honor for our struggling Palestinian people to stand with fraternal Iraq in the same trench and destiny, jointly resisting the American, Atlantic, Zionist, and reactionary onslaught which is targetting the Arab nation through great Iraq. Iraq is now the main bridge among the honest Arabs in the face of the yellow winds that can take the form of (al-Malqami) [not further identified] and Abu Rughal [the traitor who guided the Abyssinian army to Mecca].

As we extend our greetings and salutations, we affirm our complete and unlimited readiness to wage the battle at all times and in all places until the evildoers swallow the bitterness of defeat and the soldiers of truth wear the crowns of glory.

Greetings from the Palestinian fighter to the brave fighters—the soldiers of justice, the soldiers of the contemporary national renaissance, the soldiers of the heroic Iraqi Army.

Go forward, comrade leader. May God guide you on the path of great victory. Victory is ours.

Austrian Envoy Discusses Situation Inside Iraq

AU1201165091 Vienna KURIER in German 12 Jan 91 p 3

[Karl Wendl report from Amman: "Fear in Baghdad: 'Now Everything Is Over'"]

[Text] Four days before the expiration of the UN ultimatum, the personnel of the Austrian Embassy in Baghdad are being evacuated. Ambassador Erwin Matsch, his wife, his secretary, Consul Winkler, as well as their families will be flown by a special plane from Baghdad to Frankfurt today, Saturday, at 1100 local time, together with the U.S. diplomats. In an interview with KURIER, Ambassador Matsch said: "With this we are following an order from Vienna." Matsch said about the atmosphere in Baghdad: "Since the failure of the Geneva talks, the situation is depressing, frightening, unpleasant. One feels that the people here understand only now how serious the situation really is."

The ambassador added: "For about a week, evacuation drills have been held daily: 5,000 or 6,000 women and children are taken to camps outside Baghdad during these drills. The soldiers in the bases in Baghdad are practicing the use of gas masks every morning, and endless lines are forming in front of the gasoline stations." The reason for the lack of supplies: All fuel supplies are pumped out of the tanks in order to avoid large-scale fires in case of an American bomb attack. "Since Thursday [10 January], those who have the means are leaving Baghdad and are moving to friends or relatives in the countryside," Matsch said. In contrast to Saddam Husayn's strong words that "the Iraqi people are ready for the fight," Matsch says about the Iraqi's readiness for sacrifice: "One feels that the people are afraid. This is not articulated in fanatical demonstrations of hatred against the United States, but in total apathy. Now everything is over—this is how one could describe the attitude of the people in the streets."

Plan To 'Give' Kuwait to Palestinians Alleged

AU1201155491 Vienna NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG in German 12 Jan 91 pp 4-5

[Kurt Seinitz report: "Will Saddam Husayn Give Kuwait to the Palestinians?"]

[Text] According to diplomatic circles in the Middle East, Iraq's Saddam Husayn is rigging a spectacular action in the Gulf crisis: After exhausting the game of nerves in the poker of war he wants to "give" Kuwait in a political coup "to the Palestinian people as their provisional homeland."

Extricating himself this way from the crisis, Saddam Husayn could paralyze the entire coalition of his enemies with one blow, while gaining the maximum political profit, and depriving the Americans of their basis for a military action.

Saddam Husayn has always said that the "liberation of Palestine" is his supreme goal. In order to achieve this—long-term—goal, the Iraqi dictator might now "generously" declare his willingness to give "Iraq's 19th province," as he calls occupied Kuwait, to the Palestinians as a "gift."

Even in the past, Kuwait had the largest percentage of Palestinian refugees among the Arab states: 20 percent of all foreigners—that is, 230,000 inhabitants of Kuwait—were Palestinians. They were among the best workers of all Arabs in Kuwait.

With the Palestinian "card," Saddam Husayn would achieve the immediate secession of all Arab coalition partners from the United States. Saddam as "protector" of the Palestinian people would then be inviolable for all Arab heads of state.

PLO chief 'Arafat has purposefully promoted this development by completely supporting Iraq in the Gulf crisis. Only last week he went to Baghdad again and hugged and kissed Saddam Husayn with an overabundance of gestures. He assured the Iraqi dictator of the Palestinian people's unconditional support.

Saddam Husayn wants to arrange his Kuwait move on the international stage at the last moment of the war of nerves via France's diplomatic aid. The "grande nation" once more wants to play the usual, grand special role in the Gulf conflict.

Extremists Reportedly Planning Attacks on West

AU0901144891 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1430 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Among the foreign political topics, there is certainly most interest in the Gulf crisis, even more so because talks between U. S. and Iraqi foreign ministers, Baker and Aziz, opened in Geneva today.

So far, we have not learned anything specific about the talks. We have learned, however, that nearly 1,500 members of the various Arab extremist groups are in Baghdad at the moment where they are preparing for attacks on various Western countries' targets if the war broke out in the Gulf.

REUTER Report on 'Aziz, Letter Denied

JN1101190691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1848 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—An official source at the Foreign Ministry has categorically denied the report carried by REUTER today that Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received a letter for President Saddam Husayn during his Geneva talks with the U.S. secretary of state and that he put an unofficial copy of the letter in his pocket.

The source said in a statement to INA that this report is totally untrue and a dirty assumption by the British representative to the United Nations, who made up the story and informed REUTER, which is expected to demonstrate accuracy and loyalty.

Saddam Orders Agreement With Iran Implemented

NC1201134491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has given instructions to implement immediately the provisions of the unratified agreement between Iraq and Iran pertaining to visits to holy sites, without waiting for the traditional process of ratification.

During a meeting attended by a majority of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] members and a number of Arab Socialist Ba'th Party regional command members, his excellency the president ordered the concerned Iraqi officials to contact officials in Iran in order to implement these instructions.

The meeting was devoted to reviewing the details of the visit to Tehran by a delegation led by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and the talks it held there with 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Hasan Habibi, Iranian first vice president.

The participants of the meeting expressed satisfaction with the warm welcome that was accorded to the delegation by the Muslim Iranian people, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, his vice president, and all the officials that the delegation met and talked with. They also expressed satisfaction with the results of the Tehran talks.

Iraq, in expressing appreciation for the Iranian hospitality and the results of the talks, announces its unlimited readiness to cooperate with Iran on all levels and in all spheres in a way that will restore the relationship between the two neighboring Muslim countries and their peoples to the desired level.

Iranian Delegation Arrives for Talks

NC1301122891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Mostafa Fumani-Ha'eri, director general of the Gulf Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, arrived in Baghdad this morning at the head of a delegation on several days' visit to Iraq. In a statement to an INA correspondent, Fumani-Ha'eri said that he will convey an oral message to Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, from Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. He pointed out that talks will be held with Iraqi officials on ways to implement the agreement between the two neighboring countries about visits to the holy places. [passage omitted]

Meets With 'Aziz

NC1401105491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this morning received Mostafa Fumani-Ha'eri, director general of the Gulf Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Fumani-Ha'eri gave Mr. Tariq 'Aziz an oral message from his Iranian counterpart Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

'Aziz and Fumani-Ha'eri considered ways to increase ties between the two neighboring countries in all fields and talked about matters of shared interest.

Japanese Premier Sends Message to Saddam

JN1101102391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received a written message to President Saddam Husayn from former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, today.

Mr. Komi, leader of the Japanese rainbow ship organization for peace [name and title as received] delivered the message when the first deputy prime minister received him and the accompanying delegation today.

In his message, Nakasone expressed high appreciation for President Saddam Husayn's serious efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region and his initiative allowing all Iraq's guests [to leave Iraq]. He pointed out that this proves the Iraqi leadership's concern about securing a positive atmosphere and practical measures to achieve peace in the region.

Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed the appreciation of President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi leadership and people for the noble and sincere efforts that have been and are being exerted by all the peace organizations, institutions, and figures. He stressed that Iraq rejects America's arrogant and aggressive policy and blackmail.

The Japanese rainbow ship organization for peace delegation expressed appreciation for Iraq's peaceful stands, stressed that the public opinion in Japan and the world opposes the policy of aggression, and that their organization will double its efforts to support Iraq against the American aggression in defense of its sovereignty and freedom, and to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Japanese Socialist Party Leader Arrives

NC1201225991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2152 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—Mrs. Takako Doi, leader of the Japanese Socialist Party, arrived in Baghdad tonight on a visit lasting several days.

In a statement to INA, Mrs. Doi stressed the Japanese people's rejection of war and the use of force in the Arab Gulf region. She stressed the need to reach a peaceful solution for the situation in the region.

She was received at the airport by National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, the comrade director and members of the foreign relations bureau in the regional command of the Ba'th Party, and the Japanese ambassdor in Bahgdad.

Meets With Saddam

NC1301122491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Mrs. Takako Doi, leader of the Japanese Socialist Party, and the delegation accompanying her. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the latest developments in the area. The meeting was attended by Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister; Sa'dun Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and director of the foreign relations bureau of the Ba'th Party regional command.

KYODO Reports Meeting

OW1301132391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1245 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan Socialist Party (JSP) Chairwoman Takako Doi met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad on Sunday to seek a peaceful resolution of the Persian Gulf crisis, JSP officials said.

The officials said Doi, head of Japan's No. 1 opposition party, spent just under two hours with Husayn following talks with First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan.

The contents of the talks have not been revealed.

At her meetings with the Iraqi leaders, Doi was likely to propose holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East, while calling for Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait unconditionally, the officials said.

Doi, who left Tokyo on Wednesday [9 January], met with French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris on Thursday [10 January] and is scheduled to return home on January 16.

Saddam Rejects U.S. 'Law of Hegemony'

NC1301164291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has stressed that in his holy book, God Almighty mandated that the Arabs play a leading role in spreading the principles of the Islamic religion, not only in the Arab homeland but wherever they can. Saddam also stressed that the holy Koran clearly indicates that if the Arabs become weak or corrupt or if they bow to injustice, the whole Islamic religion will decline.

During his meeting with Mrs. Takako Doi, leader of the Japanese Socialist Party, and her delegation today, President Saddam Husayn said: Out of our recognition of these principles and ideals, we reject the law of hegemony which the U.S. Administration wants to impose on Iraq, the Arabs, and the world.

President Saddam Husayn added: We believe that the course that achieves security and stability in the region is the one that restores Palestine to its people and restores all the usurped Arab rights to their owners. It is the course in which the same human standards, and not double standards, are applied to the region's issues. Only then will we feel safe about our experiment, our people, and children, and only then will security and stability prevail in the region.

More on Meeting

OW1401014491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0059 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 14 KYODO—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, facing a United Nations-imposed deadline to withdraw his forces unconditionally from Kuwait by Tuesday, stressed to a Japanese opposition politician Sunday he would not yield to threats of war.

Meeting with Japan Socialist Party [JSP] Chairwoman Takako Doi, Husayn said, "We also want to open the door of peace, but we will not yield as long as President Bush does not abandon his war initiative," JSP sources said.

U.S. President George Bush has demanded that Baghdad comply with UN resolutions calling for withdrawal from Kuwait, which Iraqi forces invaded last August 2. The UN also sanctioned the use of force to expel Iraq if it does not leave Kuwait by Tuesday's deadline.

In his one hour 45 minute meeting with Doi, the leader of Japan's largest opposition party, Husayn continued to blame Bush for the Gulf crisis and the failure of talks last week between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. He also reiterated his demand that any peace negotiations include the Palestinian issue, the sources said.

The Iraqi leader said of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, "First would be Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories .... At that conference, we will make sacrifices like those of other nations," they said.

Doi urged throughout the talks a nonmilitary resolution to the crisis and suggested an Iraqi indication of its intent to withdraw from Kuwait could open the way for a Middle East peace conference. The U.S., however, has refused to link the Palestinian issue with Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

Husayn criticized the Japanese Government's provision of financial support for the UN-sanctioned multinational forces assembled against Iraq in the Gulf region, the sources said. "Of course, (the Japanese Government) has not dispatched any troops, but doesn't this (financial aid) fail to respect the spirit of the peace Constitution?" Husayn was quoted as saying.

He also told Doi that the U.S. might use nuclear weapons against Iraq if hostilities break out, adding that "Japan was forced to surrender by atomic bombs, but the Arabs will not surrender," they said.

Doi later met with Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat, who described a meeting Sunday between Husayn and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar as "a success."

'Arafat reportedly told Doi that it would be better if the U.S. would accept the idea of an international peace conference to resolve all of the region's problems including the Palestinian issue. That would give the Iraqi side some room for compromise, 'Arafat said.

With her schedule of meetings completed, Doi will leave for Amman on Monday morning on her way back to Tokyo.

Japanese Party Leader Departs

NC1401114191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1033 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Mrs. Takako Doi, leader of the Japanese Socialist Party, and the delegation accompanying her left Baghdad this morning at the end of a three-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Mrs. Doi expressed her thanks and appreciation and those of her delegation to the Iraqi officials for the warm reception and hospitality accorded them during their stay in Iraq. She expressed the hope that the current situation in the Arab Gulf region will be solved through negotiations and dialogue without the use of military force.

Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega Arrives 11 Jan

JN1201144091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1429 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a visit to Iraq that is to last several days.

To receive him at the airport was Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Regional Command and director of the foreign relations office.

Notes U.S. Opposition to War

NC1201105791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega expressed his confidence that the American constitutional institutions will not risk the fate and lives of tens of thousands of American people by hastily authorizing Bush to launch a war in the Arab gulf.

In an interview with the Baghdad newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, Ortega said that the United States' decision for war is not an easy one to make, particularly in view of its unpredictable consequences in terms of human and economic losses. He cited an American official's fear about the outcome of the U.S. Congress's support of Bush's military option when he said: I cannot support a war by U.S. forces to whose fields 55,000 coffins have been sent.

Ortega affirmed that the American constitutional institutions must respect the will of the people they represent. In the United States, the opposition to the war and the call for peaceful diplomatic solutions, the withdrawal of the American forces from the Arab region, and leaving the Arabs to tackle their own problems is increasing.

The former Nicaraguan president warned Washington that it will lose the war if it insists on using the military option to solve the crisis in the area. He said that the Iraqis are undertaking the defense of their country and interests and the defense of the interests of the poor peoples of the Third World who aspire for development.

He criticized the UN Security Council resolutions against Iraq, describing them as unjust. He said that the Security Council has become a willing tool in the hands of the big powers at the expense of the legitimate rights of the peoples. He affirmed that the retreat made by the Security Council in handling its world duties and responsibilities demands the unification of all sincere people in the international community to emphasize the need for democratic action in international organizations.

Meets With Ramadan

NC1201224491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2105 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, has asserted that the U.S. Administration will reap the results of its arrogance and hostility and will be suprised by Iraq's strong and principled stand which is based on right and faith.

During his meeting with former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and the delegation accompanying him today, Ramadan said that the United States will be repulsed by Iraq and will find itself facing stalwart fighters.

The first deputy prime minister stressed that the dialogue which America seeks is a superficial and token one that lacks the necessary seriousness that would place it on a strong footing and create a healthy and positive atmosphere so that comprehensive peace can be achieved in the region. He said that it wants the dialogue to be a cover for its aggression against Iraq.

The former Nicaraguan president stated that all liberation movements around the world are standing beside Iraq and support its sincere peaceful desires and efforts. He asserted that the United States is the enemy of nations, wants to control the world, is not concerned with security and peace, and does not respect human rights.

Meets With Saddam

NC1201222791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2145 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and the delegation accompanying him.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, first deputy prime minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; and Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim also attended the meeting.

Comments on 'Bombproof' Shelter

PA1001173091 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Jan 91

[From the "International Analysis" report by Julio Cesar Pineda]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] When we were in Iraq we could not meet with Saddam Husayn. However, we met with Daniel Ortega, who did meet with him [on an earlier visit].

He told us that he had to travel about an hour from Baghdad, go into an immense underground structure, an atomic-bombproof and air-bombproof shelter where Saddam Husayn lives with his closest staff.

During the first attacks he would be able to keep Iraq's political leadership alive. [passage omitted]

Libyan Official Arrives in Baghdad 13 Jan

NC1301211491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2105 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, arrived in Baghdad tonight on a visit to Iraq.

He was received at Saddam International Airport by Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister.

Jallud is accompanied by a delegation of Libyan officials.

Meets Deputy Prime Minister

LD1401114191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1055 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 14 Jan (SPA)—In the framework of the mission entrusted to him by the trustee of pan-Arabism, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud held a meeting in Baghdad this morning with Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister of Iraq.

The meeting was attended by the Libyan Arab delegation accompanying Staff Major Jallud. [passage omitted]

Libyans Make 'Last' Effort

LD1401115691 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (JANA)—JANA has learned that Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud will meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at 1400 today Iraqi time, as the last Libyan Arab attempt to convince Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and spare the world the calamities of war.

Further Reportage on Zambian President's Visit

Kaunda Lays Wreath at Monument

JN1101131691 Baghdad INA in English 1225 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 11, INA—President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia this morning laid a wreath at the Monument of the Unknown Soldier in Baghdad.

Signing the visitors' book, the Zambian president wished President Saddam Husayn continued success.

The Zambian president also paid a visit and toured the Monument of the Martyr in Baghdad and got acquainted with its museum.

The Zambian president arrived in Baghdad yesterday on a visit to Iraq.

Meets Saddam in Closed Session

JN1101143791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today visited his guest Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda at his place of residence.

The president was accompanied by Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister and member of the Revolution Command Council, and Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

President Saddam Husayn and his guest President Kenneth Kaunda held a closed meeting.

Leaves After Talks

NC1201093691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia left Baghdad this morning at the end of a three-day official visit to Iraq. The Zambian president was accorded an official farewell ceremony headed by President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

President Saddam Husayn paid a visit to Iraq's guest President Kenneth Kaunda at his residence this morning. The two leaders held a round of talks which was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Paper Promises To Carry 'Battle' Outside Region

NC1401093891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0722 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH says that the Army and people of Iraq together with their Arab and Islamic depth will wage the mother of battles with all their capabilities, adding that the place of the imperialist invaders and agents will be in flames.

In its today's editorial, the newspaper says that Iraq, which warned a long time ago against the imperialist hellish scheme, has become, with God's will, the vanguard of Arab and Islamic forces confronting this vicious scheme not only in defense of humanitarian principles and the world's legitimate interests but also in defense of the holy places against a deliberate and premeditated U.S. aggression.

AL-QADISIYAH draws the attention of Bush and the warmongers to a set of basic facts about the contest that will be the mother of battles. The first of these facts is that the war will not be restricted but will spread over the whole world, to wherever there are U.S. and hostile foreign interests to Iraq, and to the interests of those taking part in the conspiratorial alliance against the Arab nation.

The newspaper goes on to say: The battle will be a long one and we will not stop at the area of military operations. We will continue the struggle until we achieve our legitimate goals. The paper says the battle will be all-encompassing in its objectives. Iraq, together with the masses of the Arab nation and the Muslims, will not accept the fragmentation of these objectives—objectives confirming Iraq's geographical unity from Zakho to the sea and the liberation of the usurped Arab land, primarily Palestine, the departure of the invaders, and consequently, the liberation of the holy places in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] from the U.S. occupation.

In conclusion, the newspaper adds that these are the facts of the mother of battles. Neither Bush nor his aggressive forces will be able to avoid these facts regardless of their power and threats. Iraq alone will define the territory of the battle, the theater of operations, and the course of military operations. The independent decision to fight based on the one and only will represents a hard fact that cannot be undermined regardless of the size of Bush's aggression.

PFLP's Habash Cables Saddam, Expresses Support

JN1101144791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn received a cable from Dr. George Habash, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the valiant Iraqi Army. It read as follows:

On this dear occasion, we are happy to confirm to you that we and the Palestinian people worldwide stand alongside your great army and people, who at this very crucial time are bearing a historic responsibility of great importance in defense of our Arab nation's rights, interests, and noble goals to liberate its resources, provide the means for its development, and retrieve its rights, which have been usurped by Zionism and imperialism, rights that the United States and its allies are seeking to usurp. He added: The intifadah people, the Arab nation, and its vital powers are all on your side to inflict defeat on the enemies of our nation [words indistinct] American imperialism.

Paper Views Importance of Jerusalem to Arabs

JN1201143691 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Jan 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Jerusalem's Call"]

[Text] How many times has the name "Jerusalem" been repeated by the great leader, Saddam Husayn? How sacred and sublime is Jerusalem in his heart, mind, and conscience? How often has he put it before his eyes and in his mind, since he is the one who has taught us that we see its lights from Baghdad, or from wherever we may be, as if it is just inches away from us.

With such a portrayal, Jerusalem is no longer a mere city or a sacred shrine to which the prophet of God Muhammad, may peace be upon him, made the nocturnal journey, from which he ascended to heaven, and which he took as the Muslim's first qibla before Holy Mecca. It is all of these things with its spiritual depth and sacred symbol. It is even more than all of this.

Jerusalem lives with us like a living creature and we, the sons of the faithful gathering, breath it day and night. All Arabs will remain captive so long as Jerusalem remains captive by the Zionist invaders and occupiers. If it is not liberated, no Arab will be freed from the occupation's chains and effects. Neither will they be freed from the constant feeling of danger.

When liberator leader Saddam Husayn raises Jerusalem as a major slogan in the mother of battles and when he puts its liberation on equal footing with the liberation of Kuwait from its usurpers and its return to its motherland, Iraq, to remain the dear and protected 19th governorate, and with the liberation of the Arab people's wealth from those who plunder it, he embodies for us all of those meanings.

Jerusalem is the slogan for the freedom of the Arabs and the faithful in the present and future. What's more, the key to the future is housed in Jerusalem.

Therefore, just as wise leader Saddam Husayn stressed yesterday, the battlefield has become everywhere in the Arabs' and Muslims' lands. The objectives of the liberation of Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem, wealth, and all sacred places have become one objective, whose parts are all connected to each other, for one, inseparable battle, for which all efforts must be pooled through various means and forms.

In the mother of battles, Jerusalem's call will meet with the 2 August's call so that the faithful can begin their greatest harvest of the heads of the tyrannical evildoers and the occupying invaders—Zionists, Americans, and cursed allies who trade with the Arab nation's freedom, dignity, and rights and who have sold Jerusalem for the cheapest price in order to win—damn them—thrones and posts which will not remain where they are one minute after the battle starts.

Ramadan Meets Egyptian Opposition Party Leader

NC1201231091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2107 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Egyptian Socialist Labor Party [SLP], and Majdi Ahmad Husayn, the party's assistant secretary general.

Ramadan reviewed the U.S. Administration's hostile policy toward Iraq and the Arabs. He noted that the U.S. Administration will not be able to protect the feeble and treasonous rulers who have sold themselves and who are exploiting Arab wealth as the price for holding onto their positions of power.

Ibrahim Shukri said that President Saddam Husayn has achieved an Arab and Islamic awakening which is armed with determination and tenacity and which is ready to fight the Americans and thwart their hostile schemes to control the Arabs' wealth and will.

The SLP leader added that when President Saddam Husayn said no to the U.S. policy of hegemony and enslavement, he embodied the position of the Arab and Muslim masses who believe in their rights and properly understand that the U.S. Administration has never been on the side of the Arabs and Muslims and their causes. He said that on the contrary its strategic goals are opposed to the Arabs and Muslims. He noted that it has wasted their rights in Palestine, Lebanon, the Golan, and many other places in the world.

Receives Syrian, Other Religious Leaders

NC1301183991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received Rachid Ghanouchi, president of the Tunisian Renaissance Party; Yasin 'Umar al-Imam, member of the Sudanese Islamic Movement leadership and member of the standing executive council of the Islamic popular conference; and 'Adnan Sa'd-al-Din, assistant secretary general of the Islamic popular conference and comptroller general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria. During the meeting, Ramadan stressed that the Arab and Islamic sanctities occupied by the Zionists and Americans in Palestine, Najd, Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], and all occupied Arab territories will be purged of the desecration of the invaders and infidels. He noted the honest Arabs' and free Muslims' declaration to volunteer and their high preparedness for sacrifice and struggle in defense of the Islamic sanctities.

Ganouchi, al-Imam, and Sa'd-al-Din emphasized that the Arab nation lives and that the attempts to undermine it are over. He noted that the stage of a new revival has come and that Iraq, led by struggler President Saddam Husayn, is at the forefront of the faithful ranks confronting the forces of evil and infidelity that seek to plunder the wealth of this nation and humiliate its sons who will avenge insults to their dignity and rise against the agent rulers who have sold their honor and dignity and become slaves of America and the Zionists, the enemies of Arabs and Muslims.

Saddam Receives American Vietnam Veteran

NC1201230591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2143 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received U.S. citizen William Brown who fought in Vietnam. Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nusayyif Jasim also attended the meeting.

Paper Cites U.S. Military Exercise on Casualties

NC1301084591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0645 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Under the headline "Threats and War," AL-THAWRAH writes the following in today's issue: Since 2 August, the U.S. Administration has not stopped beating the drums of war and making daily threats to wage war against Iraq. The diplomacy of threats and the policy of war and aggression have become the only language spoken clearly by Bush and his aides. It is obvious that Bush's war fever has made the war statements by American officials, particularly the Pentagon leaders, become crazy and rabid in the way they have drawn up arbitrary scenarios and assumptions. These have been dominated by illusions, arrogance, and decisions about the results that are based on calculations that intentionally ignore many essential facts before them.

In these rabid war threats, the Bush administration mixes, without patience or thought, it desires and what it puts down on paper in terms of military plans—which are prepared by a computer—on the one hand, with the facts before him, existing balances, and strategy and tactics on the other.

Therefore, the U.S. Administration is excessively preparing for war on the basis of its own expectations and desires of the results, thus, forgetting the destructive consequences that might result from its delusions and what is put down on paper. It will then find that the results were not the ones expected. Bush is certainly stricken with political blindness and has lost the ability to assess the situation, particularly on major issues such as war and peace. He does not even want to believe the results of a military exercise carried out by U.S. Forces in Nevada which showed that casualties and losses resulting from any U.S. military ground attack against the fortified Iraqi positions would reach 50 percent of the attack forces.

Bush and those beating war drums with him should know that threatening war is one thing and waging it is something else. Certainly, the results will neither agree with his abstract hopes nor with the plans drawn up arbitrarily on paper. Therefore, if the advocates of war and aggression want to avoid the overall defeat awaiting them, they should review their calculations and examine the facts thoroughly and without the illusions the Pentagon is trying to peddle and sell to others. They should do this on the basis of the essential facts that have been seen, examined, and learned by all.

Nation Prepared for 'Worst Possibilities'

NC1301122191 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Jan 91 pp 1, 5

[Editorial: "Bush and the Attempt To Market Illusions"]

[Excerpt] With the approach of the date set by the infamous Resolution 678, which was issued by the UN Security Council as a cover for American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq, the U.S. Administration has begun escalating its feverish threats to use military force. The administration is putting forward suppositions and views that border on delusion and impossibility, but are consistent with its aims.

As part of this psychological warfare, which is taking place simultaneously with the rabid Arab preparations to launch a military attack against Iraq, Bush and his supporters are talking not only about a short and quick war against Iraq, but also talking—arrogantly and foolishly, like someone who has lost his balance and senses—about many of the technical details of the military action. At the same time, they ignore and forget to mention the major facts and tangible realities on the ground, which are factors that can decide the definite outcome of any war the American-Atlantic-Zionist forces may start against Iraq.

American President Bush still refuses to understand and absorb the essential facts about the military option and is acting according to false calculations and his deadly illusions. He imagines that he can control the theater of war operations according to what he and the Pentagon have planned on paper—that is to say, that the battle will be limited in scope, events, and objectives.

On the basis of this delusion and the strategic mistakes Bush has committed through arrogance based on brute force, Bush uses the language of threats without foresight or consideration of the grave consequences and results. He repeats his absurd ultimatums, which Iraq has already emphatically and unequivocally rejected. Iraq has made the necessary preparations to confront the aggression by opening wide all the doors of struggle so that it will be a comprehensive, long, and decisive battle between the gathering of believers, led by Iraq as a result of its known weight, and the gathering of evil and infidelity, led by the American administration.

In its practical measures and in all fields of battle and confrontation, Iraq has taken into consideration the worst possibilities and expectations so that it can deal with and overcome any surprise the enemies may have prepared or planned.

Iraq has completed all its military preparations so as to cover all the events and fields of battle in terms of time and place. It has shaped its political, social, and economic objectives to embrace all honest fighting and struggling forces in the nation together with the faithful mujahidin in the Islamic world and the free people of the world. [passage omitted]

Army Will 'Wipe Out' U.S. Forces

NC1301132691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT
13 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper says that the Iraqi forces will completely wipe out the invasion forces when the battle begins over the issue of Kuwait. In an article today under the headline "The Nevada Exercise is One Thing and War is Something Completely Different," the paper says: If the Nevada exercises have demonstrated that a nonexistent Iraqi Army can inflict losses estimated at 50 percent on the American forces, then the Kuwait exercise, with real Iraqi forces, will completely wipe them out.

The paper adds that everybody admits that the Iraqi Army is tough and was toughened by its battlefield experience and has become stronger because of its scientific potential. In fact, this Army is defending its national cause forcefully and capably. Where is the U.S. Army in all this?

The paper notes that the impending fall of the United States at the hands of the Iraqis will correct matters and strip the master of world imperialism of all its hyperbole, lies, and allegations, particularly the allegations concerning international legitimacy and human rights. The paper adds that the U.S. Administration has not understood yet—or does not want to understand—the fact that Iraq is not fighting for the sake of land as much as it is fighting for humanitarian principles and objectives. Iraq's retrieval of Kuwait was not done out of its ambition to reclaim a right that was stolen in a previous period of history as much as it was an act that was in harmony with its principles and objectives to cut off the hands of the agents who are trying to abort the Iraqi awakening, an awakening that will thwart the conspiracies and play a leading role to liberate Jerusalem and Palestine.

The paper says that the American administration is not sincere in its so-called attempts to reach a peaceful solution to the Gulf events because it is the one that created these events so as to reach its basic objective, that is, weakening Iraq. The Bush government began its aggression in earnest when it tried to besiege Iraq economically through conspiring with the Gulf shaykhs and by cutting Iraqi oil revenues at a time when Iraq was in dire need of such revenues to build its economy and army.

AL-THAWRAH concludes its article saying: If the Geneva meeting between the foreign ministers of Iraq and the United States had not ended this way, it would have been a surprise, because, in the American view it was just a link in the chain of escalation to launch aggression against Iraq. Otherwise, why did it fail, since U.S. President George Bush admitted himself that the Iraqi proposal was reasonable, logical, and good?

Cuban Medical Staff To Remain at Hospitals

JN0901180491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT
9 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jan (INA)—Cuba has decided to keep its medical personnel working in Iraq's hospitals as an expression of its solidarity with the people of Iraq to break the blockade imposed on them. This came in a statement by Cuban Ambassador to Iraq Juan Aldama Lugones in the wake of his meeting with the under secretary of the Health Ministry. He said that he conveyed the instructions of President Fidel Castro and the Cuban Government to the Cuban medical personnel working in Iraq to continue their work despite the current situation in the region. He reiterated the solidarity of the Cuban people and government with the people and leadership of Iraq in their confrontation against imperialism and Zionism.

Iraqis Fighting on 'Front of Faith'

JN0901180191 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT
9 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 9, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party confirmed that the forthcoming battle against the imperialist forces would combat social and economic injustice and unfair differences that emerged in the Arab homeland.

In an article published today, the daily said that struggle momentum that would realize multiple interrelated goals in one battle would be of no limit, especially if backed by firm beliefs and convictions.

The daily added that such a battle should be fought decisively and comprehensively, so that all the goals to which the Arab nation aspired would become a reality.

It pointed out that the comprehensive nature of the confrontation with the U.S.-Zionist alliance had given the believers the chance to unify ranks and firm up the belief in the righteousness of their just issues. It expressed confidence that a battle like that must end with an outright victory.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today stressed that Iraq would settle accounts with the nation's enemies and warned the forces of evil that they were only fooling themselves if they imagined that they could get away from punishment.

The daily further said that the mother of all battles would realize more than one goal in one historic battle that would be settled in favour of the gathering of believers.

It confirmed that Iraq decided to rectify all deviations and help our generation hold the key to the liberation of al-Quds [Jerusalem] and elimination of all forms of injustice, as a step towards establishing new relations among world peoples based on justice, equity and mutual respect. It underlined that a new era had come, in which the Arabs would act under a unified leadership that could make the necessary decision in the right time.

The paper made it clear that the decisive battle would prove the confusion and lack of experience of those leading the evil alliance.

AL-JUMHURIYAH wondered how could the United States and its allies make up for the human losses they would sustain in the battle? And how could they boost the low morals [as received] of their forces?

It concluded that the prayers of the believers in Iraq and the Arab homeland would be of great help to those fighting in the front of faith.

Organization Chairman Receives U.S. Delegation

NC1201081791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0733 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—'Adnan Dawud Salman, chairman of the friendship, peace, and solidarity organization, received a delegation representing the American popular reconciliation committee led by Tariq Hunaydi yesterday evening.

During the meeting Mr. Salman expressed his appreciation of the noble role being played by humanitarian organizations and benevolent forces in the world, as well as their good offices which aim to bring about a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

Saddam Interviewed by Italian TV 23 Dec

NC1201200091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stressed that if oil is important to certain people, what is more important for us is Jerusalem, which is occupied by the Zionists. In an interview with the Italian television network on 23 December, his excellency said: We know that the men in the Iraqi Armed Forces have faith that they are right, that God is with them, and that they will triumph. He asserted that all Iraqi men and women, all Arabs, and the billion-strong Muslims behind the Arabs, will, if war breaks out—God forbid—be ready to fight. He warned the forces of evil and aggression against attacking Iraq. He said: Should they embark on a criminal action, you will see how the Iraqis will bring them to an impasse from which there is no way out without paying an exorbitant price. The Iraqis will triumph in all (?battles) in the name of God, of right, of the Arabs, of all Muslims, and of all believers around the world who favor right over wrong. He reiterated Iraq's sincere and serious endeavors for dialogue. He said: We will not pay a price for dialogue because it is a human right, and anyone seeking to solve complex issues in an evenhanded way should accept unconditional dialogue. The text of the interview follows:

Correspondent: Mr. President, the world is in a frenzy thinking about war. Is it possible to do anything to avert war?

The president: Yes, many things can be done. The distance between the first step toward wisdom and, consequently toward the way of God, and the last step toward the devil is far. Therefore, we have ample room to move a great way toward peace and away from war. God Almighty consistently exhorts us to seek peace, as do the prophets. You know that Jesus Christ advocates peace. You know that Muslim Arabs use the word peace in their greeting. Thus, peace is not only required but desired by Arabs and Muslims. However, if the villains choose war against the Arabs and Muslims, the Arabs and Muslims should defend themselves in conformity with their faith.

Correspondent: Mr. President, Europe is adopting a stance close to that of the United States on this crisis. Add to this the fact that the USSR, China, and even Iran are demanding that you withdraw from Kuwait. Moreover, the majority of the Arab countries are adopting the same stance. Do you not feel isolated?

The president: No. We do not feel isolated because of the lessons we learned early in life about our religion. We learned that when Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, emigrated from Mecca to Medina and was pursued by the infidels, Abu-Bakr was with him. They hid in a cave far from the eyes of the idolators. When the idolators approached the cave, Muhammad found that Abu-Bakr was very worried. He was worried about Muhammad, not about himself. The Prophet told Abu-Bakr: Do not be sad. God is with us. This is a lesson which reminds someone who has faith that when he is right, he must remember that God is with him. He who believes that God is with him does not fear anyone because he is right.

Correspondent: Mr. President, following the European decision not to meet with Tariq 'Aziz before he meets with the Americans, the next move will be yours. What will this move be?

The president: We are adhering to our position. Our position is based on the premise that the head of state in Iraq is the one who has the right to set the date for a meeting with the envoys of foreign countries who are requesting the meeting, just as other heads of state in the world have the right to set the dates that suit them to meet with envoys dispatched to them. The problem is that the U.S. President believes that, just because he is the U.S. President, he must set the appointments for the head of the Iraqi state in Baghdad. We reject this.

Correspondent: There are rumors that you will partially withdrawal from Kuwait. Is this true?

The president: There are false rumors.

Correspondent: Mr. President, some people are saying that you will perhaps be satisfied with obtaining some oil wells and the two Kuwaiti strategic islands. Is this true?

The president: Regardless of the ideas that are proposed by this or that person, we clarified our stance in our 12 August initiative. International legitimacy and international law are the criteria on which we, as the sons of one nation—and we the Arabs are the sons of one nation—agree for determining whether a foreigner can ask questions about our Arab issues which we consider internal affairs. If an Italian comes and says I want to submit to proposals to you or intervene in Arab affairs, we will ask him why. If he answers that he is doing this on the basis of international legitimacy and international law, we will ask him: Do you yourself respect international legitimacy and law? We will review his stands on international legitimacy and international law. Within this review of his stands we will ask him a specific question: Do you respect international law and international legitimacy with regard to the Palestinian issue? If he says no, we will tell him: Go away, you have no right to discuss Arab issues, international legitimacy, and international law.

If he says yes, we will respect him and enter into a dialogue with him on an equal footing. This equitable dialogue will be able to resolve all oustanding isues among people. This is our policy.

Correspondent: This is true, Mr. President, but there are two different problems. One problem is that an Arab and Islamic country has occupied another Arab and Islamic country. The second problem is that Iraq has canceled the sovereignty of an existing country.

The president: If matters fall within the first description, then they have their own sphere [midaniha]. But if they fall within the second description, then Iraq replies to you as follows: Any citizen in Iraq and any politician in Iraq will tell you that a provisional government was formed [in Kuwait] between 2 and 8 August. This provisional government was formed by a number of young Kuwaitis who were in the Kuwaiti Army until the moment the Qarun [legendary figure known for his wealth] of Kuwait was expelled from Kuwaiti territory. These youths are more honorable than Jabir [al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait]. But when the United States came with its armies to return the situation in Kuwait to what it was prior to 2 August, the provisional government asked the Iraqi Revolution Command Council to establish unity because it was impossible for these inexperienced youths, the most senior of whom held the rank of lieutenant colonel, to continue to exercise authority and confront the United States in such a situation. Thus, unity was established between Kuwait and Iraq.

You know that Kuwait was part of Iraq. They might say in the West that that provisional government was the creation of Iraq. Without going into detail, you know that Jabir, his father, and grandfather were the creation of Britain. You might say in the West that the process was not democratic because the Iraqi Army entered Kuwait. We tell you that severing Kuwait from Iraq and turning it into a British protectorate was also carried out by force and was an undemocratic action. Proof of this is that all successive Iraqi kings and presidents have rejected this fait accompli. Yet we said let us look at things in the region from a single perspective and not from a double one. We said that if some people believe that the Kuwaiti rulers are important for them, then what is more important for us is the Palestinian people; the important ones are the Palestinian people who have been displaced from their homeland. If oil is important for some, then what is more important for us is Jerusalem which is occupied by Zionism. We said that dialogue is the way to reach logical and practical solutions.

Correspondent: That is true, Mr. President. But prior to 2 August, there was a state which was a member state of the United Nations, that is Kuwait, and there is no such state now.

The president: It is not strange when circumstances change to restore countries to normality through unity between them. There were two states before German unification, East Germany and West Germany. Now we have a single state, namely Germany, in the United Nations. There were two states, the Arab Republic of Yemen and Democratic Yemen, before unity. Both were UN members but are now a single state. The world did not object to this. Do you know why? Because the first one, Germany, is a Western country. Germany is a Western country. Westerners believe they belong to another world, that what is permissible for them is not permissible for others. Because Yemen is poor and had nothing with which to bribe some circles, it is now being reproved for its honorable stand. It is being punished with inhuman actions because of its stand against the war on Iraq. A million Yemenis who were working in

Saudi Arabia were expelled. They were deprived of their possessions and Saudi officials dumped them along the road without life's most basic necessities. But the West did not speak about this human aspect. Are not a million refugees more important than the ruler of Kuwait with his 70 wives and $60 billion of the people's money?

Correspondent: But Mr. President, don't you believe that there is a difference with the cases of Germany and Yemen? Germany and Yemen decided to unite, but Kuwait did not decide to unite with Iraq.

The president: In 1938, when Kuwait did not have oil as is the case now, it twice decided, through its council of representatives and in a democratic manner, to merge with [al-indimam] Iraq. The council of representatives was dissolved on the advice of the British governor and the unity was frustrated through democracy. [sentence as received] However, is Jabir democratic? This question is put to every Westerner who truly believes in the slogans raised in the West. Also, is [Saudi King] Fahd democratic?

These are families that rule autocratically. All of them are shaykhs who became kings. This is also the case of the oil shaykhs. The root of their scandalous behavior in the West, through which some Arabs are (?humiliated), is the low cultural and social level of those who rule the oil states. Therefore, what concerns the U.S. Administration and its Western allies is not the sublime values but other matters. The false slogans in the talk about sublime values have been exposed and the real facts have surfaced. The people in the region now know the facts as they really are.

Correspondent: Mr. President, we in Europe are aware that there is no democratic government in Kuwait. The same goes for Saudi Arabia. However, we in the West do not approve of one state's occupying another.

The president: I have already told you, if you ask the Iraqis, they will respond by saying that a provisional government was formed in Kuwait and it agreed to unite with Iraq. Therefore, what you say does not make sense.

Correspondent: Mr. President, Amnesty Interntional says that since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Iraqis have tortured or killed several hundreds of people there, have arrested thousands, have ill-treated Kuwaiti women, and have allowed approximately 300 premature babies to die because they stole their incubators from Kuwaiti hospoitals. What is your response to this?

The president: I have not seen the report about which you are talking; I have not seen what Amnesty International said. However, I respond as follows: I have read the allegations of Bush and his aides on the subject. When these statements were made, the information minister invited the U.S. network CNN and the U.S. news agencies to visit the hospitals in the governorate of Kuwait. They saw everying on the spot and denied these reports. It was a U.S. television network and not an Iraqi television network that denied this matter. The Voice of America radio, REUTER, etc. were among those who went there. Therefore, you can judge these rumors and other reports in light of these facts.

Correspondent: Is it possible, Mr. President, for Italian television to visit Kuwait and report on the situation there?

The president: Yes, it can go but not now because the United States is beating the drums of war. The province of Kuwait is the primary operations arena which could be the battlefield. If the specter of war is removed, there will be opportunities for many international television networks to go there and see the situation for themselves.

Correspondent: Mr. President, did you expect such cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union over this crisis? And what is your opinion about the resignation of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Sheverdnadze?

The president: When Sheverdnadze started to sink so low, we were not surprised about any step he made on behalf of the Soviet Union. But as regards Sheverdnadze's resignation, this is an internal issue that concerns the Soviet Union. It is no secret, though, if I tell you that whenever a bad person falls the Iraqis people are happy. But as far as we politicians are concerned, we say that the issue is internal and the Soviet Union is the one that decides its domestic affairs.

Correspondent: What do you think of Gorbachev?

The president: I have met with Gorbachev. He was logical during our discussion of topics. He demonstrated great readiness at that time to promote bilateral relations, and they were actually developed after that meeting. However, we saw that many stands during this period were simply subservient to U.S. policy, and we have no idea if this policy was pursued with the consent of Gorbachev or if this policy was formulated by Sheverdnadze. Perhaps Gorbachev was not aware of all aspects and the analysis of what was true and what was false.

Correspondent: Mr. President, the Soviet defense minister says that you have approximately 1 million fighters or soldiers on the front and that only 300,000 of these can fight. What is your opinion?

The president: I did not read any such statement by the Soviet defense minister. The Soviet Army is a friend of our Army and the nationalistic and faithful men in the Soviet Army are well aware of the type of men in the Iraqi Army. At any rate, we are proud of our Armed Forces and we know that the men in the Iraqi Armed Forces have faith that they are right, that God is on their side, and that they will triumph.

Correspondent: How many soldiers are capable of fighting, Mr. President?

The president: All the Iraqi, men and women, backed by all Arabs and by a billion Muslims are ready to fight if war starts, God forbid.

Correspondent: Mr. President, if war breaks out there will be an unusual alliance among Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Israel. What do you think of this alliance?

The president: You are making inferences. Right is capable of action when the alliance against it, no matter its nature, is in the wrong. Is the alliance which the United States leads a small one, so that some people should look for new alliances under new leaders? Does this not give you an indication that this front is wrong and that despite their large numbers, they are afraid. If you meet some of the treasonous rulers you will find that they are trembling with fear. At the same time, if you meet any Iraqi woman you will find that she is like a lion in her constant commitment to right.

Correspondent: Mr. President, Western analysts are saying that if war breaks out, Iraq will not be able to save or defend itself. I believe you hold a different view.

The president: If this had been their view, they would already have perpetrated their hideous act. They did not raise the slogan of war now; they raised it long ago. Why, then, have they delayed action? Not because they fear God, or fear any of their number. They are agreed on committing the crime. They delayed because God has wanted it to be so and because of the preparations that they can see and which have been made to confront them if they carry out their crime are very real preparations. If they are tempted to carry out their criminal act, you will see how the Iraqis will bring them to an impasse from which there is no way out without paying a great price. The Iraqis will triumph in all Iraq in the name of God, right, the Arabs, all Muslims, and all the faithful of the world whose concern is to uphold right over wrong.

Correspondent: Is it true that Iraqi technicians are able to build atomic bombs?

The president: We have spoken of this previously. However, regardless of the stories being told, is the possession of nuclear weapons dangerous? Westerners, particularly Americans, might say yes. If this is so, why is Israel not being forced to rid itself of its atomic weapons and accept tight supervision so that it cannot produce any more nuclear bombs? Prior to the events that have come to be called the Gulf crisis, Iraq proposed a clear program on this issue. In the context of a desire to establish peace and stability in the world, it proposed discussing the concept of removing weapons of mass destruction from the entire region as part of a comprehensive peace process. Iraq is still ready for that. Therefore, the objectives of some Western political and media circles are known. These objectives involve an abominable act of racist discrimination, as if it is not permitted for the Arabs to have some of what other nations are allowed.

Correspondent: Mr. President, world public opinion has welcomed the release of the foreign guests. Why did you detain this number of people for that length of time?

The president: This question is late. We have already said a lot about this issue. World public opinion has appreciated our stand. But look at what unwise Bush said about this measure. He told the world to look how his strategy—that is Bush's strategy of pressures, siege, and threats—succeeded. Note the level of shallowness. He believes that we took this measure because we feared his threats. He would not have said such a thing if he were wise. World public opinion has appreciated this. Not all political officials have understood this stand and acted toward Iraq in a way to reward this great humanitarian stand.

Correspondent: Mr. President, is the siege very effective and how long can you hold out without selling any oil?

The president: Yes, the siege is effective. This is natural because the siege has even included food and medicine, and international law does not include these. Look how spurious and hypocritical some of the major powers are when they talk about international law and international legitimacy and at the same time they include food and medicine. This means that many children, women, and old people will die due to malnuitrition and lack of medicine. Is this the humanity the West is talking about? Why are voices not raised in the West against this inhuman act? How can a country such as Italy or France accept injustice being inflicted on a people by depriving them of food and medicine through such a measure? Can such behavior reassure us and make us believe some Western politicians when they talk about humanitarian slogans?

Yes, the siege is effective because we were not isolated from the world in the past; we were part of it, selling to it and buying from it. But if the choice is either to keep our dignity, holy places, sovereignty, and our national and pan-Arab rights intact while the siege continues or to lose everything and have the siege lifted, then we prefer that the siege remains together with our dignity, sovereignty, rights, and holy places. We do not want to have the siege lifted in return for having these rights squandered. You know that many countries shut themselves off and survived. If the siege remains for a period of time, the Iraqis will adjust. They have already adjusted to the new situation in a way that preserves their dignity and keeps their future open and free from a master who would impose slavery on them.

Correspondent: With regard to medicines, Mr. President, Italy sent a shipment of medicines. Moreover WHO believes that your hospitals have sufficient medicines.

The president: Amnesty International [as received] might lie at the instigation of its masters, just as it said that Iraq was withdrawing equipment needed by premature infants in Kuwait's hospitals. There are annual lists of Iraq's purchases of medicines from abroad. The world knows this, and the countries from which we used to import medicines also know this. What is required is for us to receive medicine in the same amounts and of the same kinds, taking into account the annual population increase, just as was done in previous years. Only then can one say that Iraq has sufficient medicine.

Correspondent: Mr. President, do you believe that if you left Kuwait the international community would have an obligation to find an appropriate solution to the Palestinian cause and to force Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories?

The president: We do not agree to submit the Palestinian cause to bartering. We are saying that the occupying Zionist armies must leave Palestine. Concerning the reference made by some foreign countries to the importance of peace in the Middle East, we have emphasized that this line of reasoning should be applied to Palestine first because it is the duty of those who have causes to defend to submit their cause forcefully when the time is ripe. Is it not enough that the Western world usurped Palestine from its people and helped Zionism seize it from them? The Palestinian people have been homeless for more than 40 years. When will the West's—the Western rulers'—humanitarian feelings awaken to the level, that will make us believe that their humanitarianism is real and not sham.

The test of Westerners' seriousness about respecting international law and international legitimacy which would allow them to conduct a debate within this context about the region's security is for them to liberate Palestine in accordance with international law and international legitimacy. This means that they must implement the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council and the United Nations. If this does not happen, then those who speak of international legitimacy and international law are hypocrites and will not find anyone to listen to them in the entire Middle East.

Correspondent: Are you, nevertheless, ready to take a measure or to do anything that is bound to open the door to dialogue?

The president: We will not pay a price for dialogue. Dialogue is a human right. Anyone who wants to resolve complex problems in an equitable manner must agree to conduct an unconditional dialogue.

Correspondent: Mr. President, 15 January is close. How can you continue to challenge the United Nations?

The President: You mean the U.S. security council? [as received]

Correspondent: There are many big powers in the Security Council.

The president: China did not vote. Sheverdnadze has gone, and one of the reasons for his departure was that he had made the Soviet Union a lackey of Baker's. Yemen opposed this and so did Cuba. It is the U.S. security council which adopted such resolutions. If you go to Italy and ask the people there if they want war or dialogue, they will tell you that they want dialogue. And if you go to the Soviet Union and ask the people and the members of the Soviet parliament if they want war or dialogue, they will tell you that they want dialogue and that they do not approve of a war against Iraq. The demonstrations in France demanded the withdrawal of the French Army, and all the demonstrators were not Iraqis. Does this not give you an indication that the resolutions were issued by the U.S. security council and not the UN Security Council? Do you not see the pressures being brought to bear on you by the United States regarding the participation in the so-called international forces which occupy the land of our Islamic sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]? Have you not heard of the public threat, or what looks like a threat, to Italy that Italy is not paying its share or sending the forces to Najd and Hejaz it should? Have you not heard the rude words used publicly by the United States against Germany and Japan concerning the same subject? After all this, we hear that the resolutions were issued by the UN Security Council and not by the U.S. security council.

Correspondent: Yes, you were right, Mr. President, when you said that our Italian people want dialogue and want peace. But our people also believe that there is a right that was violated when Iraq entered Kuwait.

The president: Yes, I do respect this opinion whether it is expressed by the people or by the government. The problem is not over which matters are legal and which are not legal. The problem rests in the premeditated aggressive intentions of the White House and Israel. However, do the Italian people know for example that Kuwait is part of Iraq which was sliced off during World War II [as received] to deprive Iraq of access to the sea? It was Britain that did that and Kuwait was a district affiliated to al-Basrah Province. Do the Italian people, or the French, or the English know that until 2 August there were no legal borders between Iraq and Kuwait?

Do the Italian and other Western peoples know for example that all successive kings and presidents of Iraq have refused to recognize the fait accompli which was imposed by Britain and not by Saddam Husayn, or the leadership in Iraq, or the Iraqi people alone? Do you know that there were no borders between Iraq and Kuwait before 2 August? Do you know that the council of representatives in Kuwait decided democratically and at two successive sessions to join Iraq but the council was dissolved by a decision of the British governor when Kuwait was a British protectorate? Do the Italian people know that the essence of the law of protection requires that the protectorate revert to its origin when the protectorate ends or at least that a plebiscite be held so the people can decide? But when the British protectorate ended, they made Kuwait a state disregarding all these measures.

Do the Italian people know that when Britain placed this measure before the United Nations in 1961, Iraq's representative, its foreign minister at the time, withdrew from the meeting and refused to recognize the fait accompli? Do the Italian people know that Iraq's ruler 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim adopted a constitutional decision in 1961 rejecting the partition of Kuwait, restoring Kuwait to what it was, a district of al-Basrah, and appointing the shaykh of Kuwait a district commissioner? He ordered the Iraqi Army to implement this decision but Britain was quicker than he was in sending its armies. This decision was not implemented when matters became complicated. Do the Italian people know that one of Iraq's kings, King Ghazi, was killed because he demanded the restoration of Kuwait to Iraq and that the Kuwaiti people then rallied around King Ghazi and demanded that he restore Kuwait to Iraq?

Do they know that Kuwait became a UN member only in 1963? Finally, do the Italian people know that Kuwait's rulers plotted with the United States and the Zionist entity against mother Iraq in order to destroy it politically and economically? Do they know that a provisional government was formed after 2 August in Kuwait and laid down the measures for merging Kuwait with Iraq? Had the Italian people known all this and known all the bad things about the Kuwaiti shaykhs—including the Kuwaiti shaykh's possession of $60 billions when there are millions of people in the Arab homeland, in Islamic society, and around the world who are dying of hunger—then the Italian people and all Western peoples would have taken another stand and would have had a different view. But Zionist media and U.S. hegemony do not allow all the facts to emerge as they should.

Correspondent: The point, Mr. President, is that we in Italy are aware of that. But we in Italy and the West do not accept that borders be demarcated by means of force.

The president: Is this your general law, and does it apply to all problems? How did you approve of the United States' occupying Panama and taking its elected president a prisoner in the United States? How can you accept Israel's occupying the state of Palestine and displacing its people and dealing with it without imposing an economic blockade against it and without sending your armies against it?

Correspondent: We do not accept that Mr. President. But we believe in dialogue.

The president: Why do you believe in dialogue about other problems and at the same time you do not believe in holding a dialogue with us? How can you allow armies to be mobilized against us, threats to be made against us, and a date to be proposed for attacking Iraq at a time when Iraq says that dialogue is the road to resolving problems? This is the problem.

Correspondent: Mr. President, will 15 January witness the beginning of war?

The president: We hope that the war will not happen, and that is why we always made peaceful initiatives. But the others made no initiatives. We have great hopes that God will achieve what he wants and what he wishes. What he wishes is good.

Correspondent: Thank you, Mr. President.

The president: I am pleased to meet with you because your questions were not usual. It is good for a man to hear different views. I wish you success.

Correspondent: This is nice of you, Mr. President, and thank you.

The president: I am happy.

Iraqi Strike Expected; Air Force 'High Alert'

TA1401055191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Israel has made clear to the United States that Israel retains its right to defend itself if attacked. An official in the Prime Minister's Office told Voice of Israel there is no agreement between Israel and the United States concerning this issue. The official said this was made plain to the United States in last night's meeting between the Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and senior Israeli ministers. Eagleburger and his delegation are due to leave Israel tomorrow.

According to an Israeli estimate, the United States will attack Iraq between the 15th and the 16th of January. Voice of Israel's military reporter Karmela Menashe says Israel is preparing for an Iraqi preemptive strike. According to the reporter, Israel's Air Force is on extremely high alert and has recently developed new systems for thwarting aerial attacks.

Military Tells Knesset 'War Is Inevitable'

TA1401113391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Israeli military intelligence now believes that war is inevitable, though Israel's role is less clear. The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee was briefed this morning by the deputy head of military intelligence. David Ze'ev reports:

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee has heard a report from the deputy head of military intelligence, Dani Rothschild. Committee members were told: A war is inevitable. Israel's role is less clear, largely because Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is so unpredictable. The timing of his invasion of Kuwait back in August, for example, took many in the intelligence community by surprise.

Here at the Knesset, as the January 15 ultimatum approaches, security has been tightened, though many measures have been in effect for some months now: increased security checks, both inside and outside the building, and less access even for reporters to various parts of the Knesset complex. Knesset business continues as usual, but that is likely to change if war breaks out and depending on Israel's role.

Thousands of Gas Masks Distributed in Territories

TA1401094791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jan 91 pp 1, 8

[Report by Jon Immanuel and Bradley Burston]

[Excerpts] Thousands of gas masks have been distributed to Jewish residents of Judaea and Samaria, an apparent reversal of a Defense Ministry decision last week. However, military sources sharply denied yesterday that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had decided to distribute them to Jews, while denying them to Arabs.

"The defense minister has pledged responsibility for the safety of all the residents of the territories, and the pledge will be honored," the sources stated.

Press reports last week said that at least 180,000 masks were to be distributed to Arabs living in areas close to the Green Line. Informed sources said that they were also to be given to Jews close to the Green Line, such as in Ma'ale Adumim, five kilometers outside Jerusalem. Yesterday, they were distributed to its 12,000 residents. Gas masks were also distributed to Israel's rural population.

But some masks have been distributed in Qiryat Arba', near Hebron, and in Elon More, near Nabulus, more than 35 km. from the nearest large Israeli towns.

Informed sources said that masks were being distributed there "mainly because of political pressures." There was some concern, they said, that mass distribution of masks in the territories would embolden Palestinians to riot as they could use them for protection against tear gas. [passage omitted]

Military sources said that gas treatment equipment has been installed in five hospitals in the West Bank and one in the Gaza Strip, and that medical personnel there have been trained to use them.

Gas Mask Distribution, Biological Threat Viewed

TA1301062091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] this morning begins distributing gas masks to 1 million Israelis living in rural areas in the north and center of the country. A Voice of Israel reporter says that masks will also soon be given in urban areas in the south and in Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

The IDF also has a special medical team dealing with the possibility that Iraq may use biological weapons against Israel. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 13 January adds: "Israel has an answer to every possible threat, including a biological one, says Brigadier General Uri Manos, Civil Defense commander. According to him, Israelis are not required to make any preparations whatsoever toward the possibility of an Iraqi attack with biological weapons. Military sources said that at the present stage, there is no need to inoculate the population against biological warfare."]

Jordan Reinforces Border; Move Called Defensive

TA1401101691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Last night and this morning, the Jordanian Army reinforced its positions along the Israeli border. The Jordanian redeployment includes additional troops and recoilless guns mounted on jeeps.

At the same time, a senior officer stationed in the area told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the Jordanian redeployment is of a defensive nature and was carried out without any attempt to conceal the moves and the order of battle from Israel.

King Husayn Said To Visit Border

TA0901143891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn toured the kingdom's border with Israel accompanied by the commander of the Jordanian Army. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that soldiers using binoculars at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] observation posts saw the king visiting his Army's encampments and checking his troops' deployment. All this took place on Sunday, apparently a short time before King Husayn left for Europe.

Senior IDF officers this week briefed the security personnel at the kibbutzim in the Jordan Valley and near Bet She'an, in light of the new situation along the Jordanian border. Among other things, they were told that they must take into account the fact that there are now five radical Islamic ministers in the king's government.

Reportage on Eagleburger's Visit to Israel

To Meet Shamir 12 Jan

TA1101195491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1815 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] A high-level U.S. delegation, headed by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, will arrive in Israel tomorrow. In the evening the delegation will meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir for consultations and coordination of positions. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin adds that the delegation also includes Paul Wolfowitz, one of the leaders of the Pentagon, the U.S. Defense Department. The delegation members may also meet with the foreign and defense ministers on Sunday.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus, who has listened to CNN reports, adds that senior Pentagon officials said they have increased the cooperation and political coordination between the United States and Israel lately. Our Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports on the Israeli-U.S. operational coordination:

According to U.S. media reports, the Pentagon has hinted over the last few days that the first target in an attack on Iraq will be missile sites throughout Iraq. The Pentagon is simply saying: We will take care of all missile sites, including launchers directed toward Israel, while you in Israel, sit tight; let us do the work for you. This position creates a difficult problem for decisionmakers in Israel, of course. As far as is known, the United States has until now refrained from operational coordination with Israel on the crisis. It wishes to end the crisis without Israeli involvement. Still, Israel will find it difficult not to react to a strike against its citizens. In the event of a reaction, the Israeli pilots may, perhaps, encounter U.S. pilots in the air, with bad results for both sides.

Shamir Insists on Self-Defense Right

TA1301064191 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jan 91 pp 1, 10

[Report by political correspondents Michal Yudelman and Sarah Honig]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir last night told U.S. Under-Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger that Israel would insist on its basic right to self defense.

Eagleburger, who is heading the highest-ever diplomatic mission to arrive in Israel since President Bush took office in January 1989, is here "to coordinate policy and strategy with Israel in the event that hostilities break out," sources said. [passage omitted]

Sources here stressed that Eagleburger's visit reflected the importance with which the Americans regard Israel's role in the region. The closer the date of possibile hostilities approaches, the greater Israel's significance to American considerations becomes, the sources said.

The Eagleburger mission, it is stressed, was undertaken on Bush's behalf, and Eagleburger bears messages from Bush to Shamir. The visiting delegation held a working session and a business dinner with Shamir, leaving the Foreign Ministry essentially out of the picture (a meeting with Foreign Minister Levi may be scheduled for today.)

With Eagleburger's visit, Jerusalem sources noted, the entire handling of the crisis has been moved into Shamir's hands. The Americans, it was noted, wanted to reach significant understandings with Israel, and not engage merely in diplomatic exchanges. [passage omitted]

Defense Said 'Government's Authority'

TA1301141091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] In its weekly session today the cabinet was briefed on all issues pertaining to the Gulf crisis. The prime minister informed the ministers that he had conferred with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that one minister asked him whether the rumors are true that the United States is demanding that Israel not respond to an Iraqi attack. Mr. Shamir replied that Israel's defense is the government's authority. That is how it was in the past, and that is how it will be in the future, the prime minister asserted.

U.S. 'Demand' Not Confirmed

TA1301130891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Report by Ze'ev Kohen]

[Text] While the cabinet ministers were meeting in the conference room, the central activity was being conducted in one of the neighboring offices where Defense Minister Moshe Arens met with the U.S. delegation headed by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. No details were released or leaked from the latter meeting. Currently, Lawrence Eagleburger is conferring with Foreign Minister David Levi in the minister's office.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT on 13 January adds that in its session today "the cabinet authorized the ministers to prepare emergency regulations and issue emergency decrees concerning their ministries if and when the need for that arises in times of emergency."]

The only thing we do know is what was reported by THE NEW YORK TIMES, which wrote that the U.S. delegation arrived here with the unequivocal demand that Israel not attack or take part in the Gulf crisis. I asked Ministers Moshe Qatzav and Ehud Olmert, as they came out of the cabinet meeting, whether Israel can abide by the U.S. demand. Here are their answers:

[Begin recording] [Olmert] The relevant question is what will happen if, despite our desire to stay out of the Gulf war, we are attacked. In my opinion, if we are attacked, we will retaliate. How we retaliate, in what manner, by what means, when, where—all these are questions we will consider and answer in due time. It has, however, never occurred to me that we could do anything but retaliate.

[Kohen] In other words, we will not heed the U.S. demand.

[Olmert] You are assuming there is such a demand and that we are not about to heed it. What I say is that it is totally unimportant whether the demand exists or not; it is absolutely irrelevant. The relevant question is what will happen if we are attacked, and I am telling you: You do not have to be an expert or an intellectual; all you need is common sense. If the State of Israel is attacked, it will strike back tenfold. That much is clear.

[Kohen] Minister Moshe Qatzav, is the U.S. demand that Israel abstain from attacking, even if attacked by Iraq, reasonable?

[Qatzav] In my opinion, it is not. The United States cannot prevent it, and it cannot demand that Israel abstain from attacking if attacked. So far, we have shown self-restraint in the face of the Iraqi ruler's daily threats to harm Israel in the worst way possible. Despite this, Israel has decided not to attack first, and it will launch no military action unless attacked. If we are attacked, it will mean the United States was unsuccessful in thwarting an attack on Israel. In such a case, Iraq will not escape anyway; it will have to bear the full results of its aggression against Israel. [end recording]

In the cabinet meeting itself, Minister David Levi briefed the ministers on his exchange of messages with Baker. He said that Baker has sharply rejected all attempts to equate the Security Council resolution on Kuwait with Resolution 242 pertaining to Israel. Baker said that the present occupation of the territories is a result of the war of self-defense forced on Israel. Minister David Levi saw fit to advise the ministers of the contents of the messages because of their political implications, which are favorable to Israel now and in the future.

Levi also reported at length on the Foreign Ministry preparations, noting that an open channel of communication with various governments has been opened for mutual updating.

Knesset Official Comments

TA1301071191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, has said the reports that the United States is trying to persuade Israel to refrain from retaliating in the event of an Iraqi attack are peculiar. In an interview with the Voice of Israel, MK Ben-Elisar stressed that no country in the world would be willing to hand its security over for the safekeeping of another, even when the other country is a friend.

Delegation Completes Meetings

TA1301193591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1908 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Excerpts] The final meeting between the U.S. delegation headed by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and Prime Minister Shamir, Minister Arens, and Minister Levi ended a few minutes ago at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. Both sides imposed a blackout on the discussions, but it has been learned that Israel made it plain that it has no intention of committing itself to abstain from military action if it is attacked.

Our political correspondent has been told that there is no disagreement on this point between Israel and the United States. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, has said that consultations between the two sides will continue. The U.S. delegation has thus completed its visit in Israel. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin reports:

We were not allowed to photograph Lawrence Eagleburger, the man in the red sweater, from close up. At the Americans' request, the handshakes with Shamir, Arens, and Levi were not photographed, apparently so as not to anger the Arab countries in the coalition—what might be called delicate coordination. [passage omitted]

Assuming that the Americans asked us not to respond in the event of an Iraqi attack and to let them take action, they probably came to the conclusion—and not for the first time—that Israel does not want and cannot allow such a state of affairs. Mr. Shamir did not brief the cabinet about his talks with Eagleburger, but took pains to release a statement to the media saying that Israel decides on its own defense and security affairs; that is how it was in the past, and that is how it will be in the future. Israel does not want to get dragged into the conflict—as has been emphasized on numerous occasions—but it is part of the arena and part of the picture. Hence, there is a need for cooperation and coordination with the Americans, which is very complicated and delicate.

Several issues related to the Gulf were discussed. Officials in the Prime Minister's Office noted the friendly atmosphere in the talks, but would not elaborate beyond that.

Speaking at the cabinet session today, Minister Sharon said that in this crisis Israel must rely mainly on itself and should not act as a protege. In fact, this is the general consensus in the cabinet. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Block Flow of Operational Information

TA1301065491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpts] Israel expects to reach an understanding with the Americans regarding all aspects of operational cooperation. As is known, no understanding on the issue of the supply of operational information by the United States has been achieved to date. Security sources leveled criticism at this approach saying that the Americans have totally blocked the flow of operational information. [passage omitted]

Israeli sources estimate that even in the initial stages of fighting, the Americans will attempt to hit Iraqi airports in H2 and H3 districts in west Iraq in order to prevent an Iraqi air attack on Israel. The Israeli elements reiterated the apprehension that Israel will be attacked with missiles.

Defense Minister Answers Questions on Gulf

TA1301135191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1306 GMT 13 Jan 91

[News conference by Defense Minister Moshe Arens at an Israeli Air Force base "somewhere in the north"—live]

[Text] [Arens] I am happy to have you here because I hope that, through you, all Israeli citizens will be able to get a glimpse of our Air Force and will be impressed, as I am, that our Air Force is ready and prepared. We hope there will be no need for it, but if need be, the Air Force will do whatever needs to be done. If there are any questions, I will try my best to answer them.

[Hecht] Hayim Hecht, Voice of Israel. Mr. Defense Minister, you conferred this morning with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. Does the United States demand that Israel not get involved in the war in the Gulf, even if Israel is attacked?

[Arens] In everything pertaining to the U.S. Administration's positions, I suggest that you address your questions to the U.S. Administration's representatives and not to me.

[Karmeli] 'Amos Karmeli, Israel Television. Does Eagleburger's visit [words indistinct] is also meant to discuss operational coordination between the United States and Israel?

[Arens] It should be seen as part of the good ties and relations between the two countries, relations that frequently call for face-to-face meetings.

[Karmeli] Has Israel set a red line beyond which it will have to get involved in what is happening in the Gulf?

[Arens] We do not want to get involved, and we also hope not to be involved. If we are hurt, however, we will respond.

[Al-Tawil] Salman al-Tawil, Israel Television. Saddam Husayn announced today that he has weapons with which he will be able to surprise everybody. Do you think that Saddam Husayn really possesses weapons that neither Israel nor the Americans know about?

[Arens] We have been hearing concealed and not-so-concealed threats for over five months. They no longer impress anybody.

[Al-Tawil] Mr. Minister, two days before the deadline, do you think that the UN secretary general's mission and perhaps a mission by the Europeans have a chance of leading to a compromise in the Gulf?

[Arens] I do not want to make any assessments. I hope this crisis will be solved without resorting to force.

[Partially indistinct question by unidentified correspondent about the United States being amenable to linking a solution to the Gulf crisis to an international Mideast peace conference]

[Arens] I have not seen or felt any indication to that effect. That would contradict everything stated by the U.S. Administration spokesman.

[Hecht] The Syrian defense minister has threatened that Syria will stand by its sister Arab countries, as he phrased it, in the event that Israel attacks Iraq. What is your reaction?

[Arens] There is no need to threaten us. We are ready for every eventuality.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] Sir, if Israel is asked not to respond, not to react, to an attack on its territory from Iraq, what will Israel's response be to that?

[Arens, in English] We don't answer hypothetical questions, as you well know.

[Partially indistinct question in English by unidentified correspondent about Israel launching a preemptive strike]

[Arens, in English] We have not been talking about preemptive strikes at all. We hope that we will not be hit, but if we are attacked then we will respond.

[Indistinct question, in English, by unidentified correspondent]

[Arens] I think my response was sufficient.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] Sir, are you prepared to take hits in Israel and allow the Americans to respond for you? Is that part of your commitment? Does it go beyond refusing to preempt?

[Arens, in English] I think that I have already answered that question. If Israel is attacked, we will reply.

[Indistinct question, in English, by unidentified correspondent]

[Arens] We want the citizens of Israel to see their Air Force, which is today in a high state of preparedness and will give the best possible account of itself if we are attacked.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] Are you sure you can protect the citizens in the big cities, here in Israel?

[Arens, in English] We are protecting the State of Israel and the citizens of Israel, and we will do a good job.

[Indistinct question, in English, by unidentified correspondent]

[Arens, in English] We have no fear at all. We are prepared to defend ourselves, and we will give a good account of ourselves.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] [words indistinct] before you retaliate?

[Arens, in English] If we are attacked, we will respond.

[Unidentified correspondent in English] No one is doubting that, sir, but will you consult with any of the Gulf allies before you do that?

[Arens, in English] I think what I have said is absolutely sufficient.

Authorization To Fire on Approaching Planes Assured

TA1301085591 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Jan 91 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Excerpt] In anticipation of 15 January, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is maintaining a very high alert level, a senior Army source stressed yesterday.

The source said that "although this is merely an ultimatum date for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, and it is almost certain nothing will happen on that date, anything is possible with Saddam Husayn."

The Army source added that the Air Force is on the highest alert. "The pilots are on very high alert, and the planes are fueled and armed. All the aircraft needed to provide the first response to an attack can be in the air on very short notice. It should be remembered that the anti-aircraft systems are also on red alert. The significance of this state of preparedness is that within seconds of sighting an approaching aircraft, the forces will receive authorization to open fire in its direction." [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff Discusses Iraqi Threat

TA1101202891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1815 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, by Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky in the television studio in Jerusalem on 11 January—recorded]

[Text] [Shlonsky] The assessment in Israel is that if the Americans indeed eliminate the Iraqi missile threat to Israel, that will entail a heavy political price at the end of the Gulf battles. Israel, therefore, desires to establish coordination with the United States, while having the freedom to react to any Iraqi offensive. If there is no coordination, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will find it difficult to restrain itself in the face of an Iraqi strike in certain situations. It should be remembered that an Iraqi preemptive strike is still possible before 15 January. In an interview for this evening's newsreel, the chief of staff states there is no automatic Israeli reaction. We will deal Iraq a strong blow if it acts against us, the chief of staff declares, adding that Iraq's ability to reach Israel is limited in any event.

Good evening, Chief of Staff. The 15th of January is only four days off. Does the Iraqi threat seem more serious today than ever before?

[Shomron] First, 15 January is a political rather than a military operational target. Still, regarding the threat itself, Saddam Husayn has been very successful in his psychological warfare. He has created a threat; in fact, there are quite a few Israeli citizens who are apprehensive.

[Shlonsky] After all, he did everything he said he would in recent years.

[Shomron] He said he would; he said he could. But let us analyze this threat in a more rational manner.

Saddam Husayn is 1,000 km from here, and is facing a very strong coalition. The existence of the State of Israel is not in danger. All comparisons to the 1967 war era are absolutely nonsensical. Technically, if he decides to do so, Husayn can shoot one or more missiles, or even to try to launch several planes. That is all he can do; that is the sum total of the threat. To counter that threat we have, over a long period, prepared a response that can rapidly nip in the bud his ability to fire missiles or launch aircraft toward the State of Israel. We have also properly prepared the home front for any possible damage.

[Shlonsky] Is it possible that Husayn will launch missiles with chemical warheads, thus inflicting much worse damage?

[Shomron] The damage that could be inflicted by such missiles is very small when the home front defense is as prepared as it is today. If our population is attentive to the instructions and announcements made over the media, then in my opinion, the damage that could be caused, even if such missiles fall, is very small.

[Shlonsky] Could you please elaborate on our offensive preparedness? You have discussed the home front so far.

[Shomron] Without entering into detailed plans, I would say that for a number of months now, we have developed weapons and a war doctrine. We have trained with the new weapons, and in line with the new doctrine. We today possess a very significant capability of nipping in the bud any possibility of Iraq firing at Israel. At the same time, we have prepared the home front: We trained both people and commands; we have equipped everybody, including all existing auxiliary systems. The IDF has prepared plans for every conceivable future development.

[Shlonsky] You say that Iraq is 1,000 km from Israel, but Israel is also 1,000 km from Iraq, and it is necessary to cross over Jordan for an aerial attack. Is there any danger we will find ourselves in a confrontation with Jordan, and possibly also with Syria, as a result, if we want to react to an Iraqi offensive?

[Shomron] Well, if Jordan does not allow a foreign element to use its territory and airspace, it has no reason to feel threatened. I also think Syria has surely no reason to feel threatened. If the need arises and we react and attack, then in my opinion, no country except for Iraq has any reason to be worried.

[Shlonsky] Are Israel's hands not tied by the fact that the United States is involved in the Gulf, as the leader of the Arab coalition against Iraq? Is that not tantamount to the United States telling us to sit still while it does the work for us?

[Shomron] Look, we are not party to this coalition, nor to the anticipated fighting, unless Saddam Husayn tries to use weapons against our home front, against Israel's population. The moment that happens, we will act as required in the interest of defending the citizens of Israel.

[Shlonsky] Does this mean that in your contacts with the political echelon you will not recommend automatic reaction, namely, a counterattack to any Iraqi offensive?

[Shomron] There is no such thing as automatic. Anything is subject to consideration. Still, Saddam Husayn had better not make a mistake here either. He should take into account a very harsh reaction if he harms or tries to harm the State of Israel.

[Shlonsky] Over the last six months Saddam Husayn has spoken of burning half of the State of Israel. The fear, or the impression, is that he may have a surprise up his sleeve, that he may have a certain type of weapon he has not discussed publicly yet, nor admitted to possessing, which may take Israel by surprise. That could be a certain kind of nuclear or biological weapon, could it not?

[Shomron] Look, he threatens to burn half of Israel just as he threatens to overcome the U.S. Army. That is part of the psychological warfare that he has been so successful with so far. It is very easy to play that game in a totalitarian regime, unlike in a democractic country where the media occasionally, albeit involuntarily, cooperate with the enemy in that warfare. I would like to declare that his statement about burning half of Israel is pure nonsense. The extent of his offensive ability is known to us, and we are prepared for it. Let me tell the Israeli public they have no reason to entertain strong fears. Settlements in northern Israel, settlements along the northern border, like Jordan Valley settlements before them, lived for years in the shadow of no less a threat than we are facing today, and they withstood it. Again, be calm and attentive to instructions, since we can face up to the threat. Saddam Husayn has very good reasons not to try to get entangled with Israel in the first place, but even if he does, we are able to nip in the bud his ability to fire, and we can provide good protection for the home front.

[Shlonsky] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron, thank you.

[Shomron] Thank you.

Peace Movement Urges 'Linkage' on Gulf Situation

TA1101145291 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Jan 91 p 3

[Report by Miri Paz and Aviva Salzman]

[Excerpts] A new peace movement called "A Moment Before War," which was established this week, calls on the government to declare immediately, before a war breaks out, that it is willing to reach a comprehensive peace settlement that would include a general regional disarmament of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons; a peace agreement with Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq; and the establishment of Israeli-Palestinian peace, along with the acknowledgment of the rights of all the nations—the Kuwaiti, the Israeli, and the Palestinian—for a state, security, and peace. In a one-hour signing campaign, the movement's call was cosigned by 50 Tel Aviv University professors and researchers and about 300 students.

Next Monday, the new movement, which was joined by peace and protest groups such as the Women and Peace Coalition, The 21st Year, and Campus, will hold an all-night marathon discussion in Tzavta Auditorium in Tel Aviv. The marathon will include participants such as Professor Yesha'yahu Leibowitz, Professor Asa Kasher, Professor Tanya Reinhart, Professor Menahem Peri, Professor Yonatan Shapira, and Knesset Members Shulamit Aloni [of the Citizens Rights Movement] and Ya'ir Tzaban [of MAPAM, the United Workers Party]. [passage omitted]

Prof. Tanya Reinhart, one of the movement's founders, confirms that the cosigners of the manifesto indeed assume there is linkage [previous word in English] between the Gulf crisis and the solution of the Israeli-Arab crisis. "We are not afraid of linkage," says Reinhart. "We, the peace camp, are concerned about Israel's interests. We have always urged the authorities to solve the Palestinian problem, and we believe that today more and more people are becoming convinced that that is, indeed, in Israel's interest. We would like to keep Iraq from carrying out its nonconventional weapons threat." [passage omitted]

Israel Has 'Nothing to Fear' From Saddam

TA0801152791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] President Hayim Herzog said Saddam Husayn is frightened and his fear is being expressed in his declarations and actions, and in his abortive attempts to link the Gulf crisis with other regional problems. President Herzog said that if the international force decides to take military action the war will not last long. He believes Saddam is capable of radically changing his position in order to find a compromise solution, just as he did in the war with Iran. Mr. Herzog believes that Israel has nothing to fear, and that even if Iraq launches several missiles it is doubtful that they will be directed at us.

The Israeli Government has so far dealt with the situation in an exceptional manner and has proven that we are an island of stability in this region during a time of stress. Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports that the president also attacked the families of diplomats and UN personnel who are running away from Israel and the airline companies that have stopped flying here. He addressed a delegation of rabbis from the United States representing the Bonds Organization.

Possible Palestinian Reactions To Gulf War Noted

TA0801170791 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Jan 91 p A2

[Report by Hanan Schlein]

[Text] "I do not think Palestinians in the territories should resort to firearms. That would not serve our interests, and it would give certain Israeli officials an excuse to adopt a heavy-handed attitude and oust the Palestinians from the territories," Faysal al-Husayni declared yesterday.

Defense officials have different assessments of the possible reaction of the Palestinians in the territories in the event of a war and are aware of the possibility that violence might escalate. On the other hand, military sources said yesterday that they do not foresee a flare-up in the territories and that troops in the territories have not been reinforced in anticipation of the 15 January deadline.

Commenting on the possible reaction of Palestinians in the territories in the event of a war, al-Husayni said he hoped a political, rather than a military, solution is found. If war breaks out, Palestinians must stick to the land they live on and must not leave for Jordan, he said.

Al-Husayni said Palestinians and hospitals in the territories should prepare for a possible attack with gas or chemical weapons.

Arabs, Not Israel, Should Pay Price in Gulf

TA0901060891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Report by Miryam Herschlag]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu called on the ZOA [Zionist Organization of America] representatives last night to keep reminding Washington that the real threat in the Middle East is a heavily armed Iraq. In the event of a non-military resolution of the Gulf conflict, he said, the United States must impose embargoes on key industrial nations.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] An embargo not on tomatoes and oranges, but on the nuclear materiel and the ballistic technology that Western countries and some South American countries have been allowing Saddam Husayn to receive with almost criminal negligence and, sometimes, criminal collaboration. [end recording]

Netanyahu also wondered at the illogic in U.S. support of UN condemnations of Israel. Why should the United States feel it must pay a diplomatic price for Arab support, he asked.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] They know that if Saddam Husayn is not reversed, then their lives are on the line—literally their lives. Now, if anyone should pay a price, it is not the United States extracting pieces of Israel and delivering to the Arabs. It is the United States that is putting its own soldiers, its blood, its treasure on the line to save them. The United States is the one that should demand of them a price, and that price, I think, in the first instance is, of course, ending the state of war with Israel. [end recording]

As with every other speaker addressing the ZOA delegates, Netanyahu asked for help in absorbing the mass immigration. The influx, said Netanyahu, means the end of the Arab belief that Israel will disappear.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] The issue is whose dream will triumph—theirs or ours. And they know that if we are successful, that if in the next three years we absorb not a million Jews, possibly as many as 2 million Jews, this is the end of the dream to liquidate Zionism. It is simply the end. [end recording]

In response to a question on what would cause Israel to strike militarily at Iraq, Netanyahu said: Saddam knows, the Israeli people know, and the less said the better.

Darawshah Meets With Iraqi Ambassador in Germany

TA1001095791 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 10 Jan 91 p 5

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas]

[Text] Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah of the Arab Democratic Party has recently met with the Iraqi ambassador to Germany and held a long talk with him about the Gulf crisis.

This is the first time an Israeli Arab public figure has conferred with an Iraqi official. Darawshah refused to comment on the issue. During his visit to Germany, Darawshah also conferred with party leaders and political activists and raised funds for scholarships for Arab students in Israel.

Egyptian Consulate Workers Recalled From Leave

TA0901090891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] All leave for workers at the Egyptian Consulate in Elat has been canceled. Our correspondent Yehudit Zilberstein reports that all the consulate staff members who were on home leave have been ordered to report back to work at once.

European Diplomats Warned on Status of Consulates

TA0901091791 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Jan 91 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has told European diplomatic delegations in Israel that it is about to reconsider the status of the consulates in East Jerusalem. The Foreign Ministry is mainly opposed to the consulates reporting directly to their capitals, rather than to their embassies in Tel Aviv, diplomatic sources in Israel said.

The sources said the U.S. Consulate is not involved because it maintains close ties with the embassy in Tel Aviv. They are referring to those consulates that do not have a similar link, such as the Spanish Embassy.

A dispute is brewing between Israel and the EC on a similar matter, because of the EC's plan to open an office in East Jerusalem which will report directly to Brussels, not to its representation in Tel Aviv as the Foreign Ministry is insisting. This dispute has been put on ice for the time being until the Gulf crisis is over.

The EC plans to open branches in West Bank and Gaza towns in order to closely follow the EC's wide-scale development plans. The EC's development budget for the territories will be $14 million this year. The Foreign Ministry has not reacted to this report.

Arrival of Two New Diplomats in PRC Noted

TA0901192491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Two Israeli diplomats will soon arrive in Beijing, increasing the Israeli personnel in the PRC. Yosef Shalhevet, the head of the representation, acting under the Israel Academy of Sciences, told an Associated Press reporter that one of the two is Ze'ev Sufot, formerly an ambassador to the Netherlands. He did not mention the name of the other diplomat, and said only that he is a relative novice in the Israeli foreign service.

Shalhevet stressed that the expected arrival of the two in Beijing undoubtedly shows progress in the ties between the two countries, and although they will not enjoy diplomatic status, their arrival will make the representation a de facto consulate.

Voice of Israel, IDF Prepare Emergency Broadcasts

TA0801155991 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Excerpt] The Voice of Israel [Jerusalem Domestic Service] and IDF Radio have completed their preparations for emergency broadcasts. The moment a state of emergency is declared, the Voice of Israel and IDF Radio will merge into one network called "National Broadcasting Center." By the end of the week, Voice of Israel's director Amnon Nadav and IDF Radio commander Efrayim Lapid will decide on the format of the broadcasts.

Nadav and Lapid will be the editors-in-chief and will jointly decide on the nature of the programs. Secure temporary quarters have been prepared for the emergency studios, which will broadcast Israeli songs, newsreels, and continuous newscasts 24 hours a day. [passage omitted]

General Says Wartime Law Would Govern Territories

TA1201100591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Interview with Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the outgoing military advocate general, by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on the "Weekly Newsreel" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Menashe] Military Advocate General Strassnoff, the defense establishment and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have expressed concern over a possible increase in violent activity by the residents of the territories in the event of a war. Have you prepared for any changes in the regulations on opening fire in the territories in such an eventuality?

[Strassnoff] In the event that war breaks out and the residents of the territories subsequently obstruct the Army's operations, then obviously the laws of war will be applied—with all that implies—to the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. It goes without saying that in times of war, the needs of the Army must be given priority. The regulations on opening fire will be amended and adapted to the Army's needs to enable it to carry out its missions. Of course, all this will be within the framework of the law and wartime jurisdiction. All the details have been reported and a legal opinion paper has already been given to the chief of staff and the defense minister.

[Menashe] There has been criticism that as a result of pressures, the military justice system has made the laws dealing with stone throwing more flexible.

[Strassnoff] I do not think that the laws have been made any more flexible. After Defense Minister Arens instructed us to put the stress on measures against stone throwers at main traffic axes, we did appeal to the courts to hand down tougher sentences on people who threw stones at moving cars or on main traffic axes. There are also security patrols whose aim is to try to apprehend the stone throwers on the main roads, in accordance with the regulations governing the arrest of suspects.

There have been all kinds of rumors about snipers and hunters; all this is pure rubbish. The Army acts according to the regulations governing the arrest of suspected individuals, as stipulated by law, to apprehend the stone throwers. The fact of the matter is that all those who were shot by IDF gunfire were shot in the legs, in accordance with orders and regulations, and this serves as a deterrent measure. On the issue of stone throwers, I would like to point out that this week the High Court of Justice made a principled and unprecedented decision regarding the sealing of homes belonging to people convicted of throwing stones.

[Menashe] During your tenure as military advocate general you were exposed to various pressures, coming for example from the defense minister, the chief of staff, and the General Staff. This was true especially at the beginning of the intifadah, in the Giva'ti affair [in which four Giva'ti Brigade soldiers were accused of beating Palestinians to death in 1988], for example.

[Strassnoff] One cannot deny that pressures were exerted. I feel obliged to state with all honesty that I believe that the legal and judicial system successfully withstood all the pressures that were exerted from all directions. There definitely were disagreements and arguments, whether with the former defense minister or with other elements, but in the final analysis, either I convinced him or he convinced me or else the issue was decided by the body authorized by law to do so. I think that I did not cave in to pressure. The very fact that many requests or demands from the defense establishment were not endorsed by us, and in some cases the former defense minister was forced to turn to the justice minister or to the attorney general, is proof of this. I think the fact that during the intifadah we prosecuted 150 soldiers, commanders, and officers for serious violations serves as proof of the fact that the legal and judicial establishment acted out of professional and objective considerations. You cannot satisfy everyone all the time, and that is not my job. [passage omitted]

4 'Terrorists' Killed in Southern Lebanon

TA1201152191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The four terrorists killed in an encounter with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit in southern Lebanon last night belonged to George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. This is reported by our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe. Our soldiers sustained no casualties.

The IDF unit encountered the terrorist squad in the central sector of the security zone and opened fire, killing four of its members. Kalashnikov rifles, hand grenades, RPG launchers, and bazookas were found near their bodies. The terrorists seemed to have been on their way to carry out a terrorist act in Israel.

'Thousands' Participate in Palestinian Peace Rally

TA1201123291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] A rally calling for peace between Israel and the Palestinians was held this afternoon on the Nahal 'Iron road. The rally was organized by the Peace Now movement and the supreme committee of Arab organizations in Israel.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that many thousands of people participated in the demonstration, including all the Arab Knesset members [MK's], the three MAPAM [United Workers Party] MK's, two CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] MK's, Alignment MK Mikha Goldman, dozens of Arab local council heads, and thousands of teenagers. The demonstrators stood between the Megiddo and 'Ar'ara intersections. A large police presence maintained order and no special incidents were reported.

Fatah Officer Sentenced; Other Incidents Noted

TA0901093191

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 9 January in a page 10 report by Bradley Burston writes that "the highest ranking Fatah officer ever captured by Israel was yesterday sentenced to five years imprisonment for PLO-related activities in Lebanon and Tunisia.

"Col. Fayid Fanuna, who admitted to having been a member of the Central Command of Fatah in Tunis, served as a senior administrative officer in a Katyusha battalion during the Lebanon war.

"The presiding military judge, Col. Aharon Halperin, ruled that while Fanuna did not lead combat operations, 'all who aid terror organizations in any manner must be punished.'"

Although the indictment did not specify how Fanuna was captured, he testified that "he was en route to Egypt from Lebanon 10 months ago when his boat was intercepted by an Israeli naval unit."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 9 January in a page 7 report by Doron Me'iri reports that "security detainees in al-Zahiriyah prison near Hebron are being given electric shocks during their interrogations. This form of investigation has been going on for some time but has just been disclosed."

The report said that "a delegation of Supreme Court judges and representatives of the Human Rights Association said a year ago that complaints by detainees were justified."

In another report on the same page, Mikhal Qedem, Fayiz 'Abbas, and ITIM write that a firebomb was hurled yesterday at a Border Police patrol in the center of Ramallah, but that there were no casualties. The Army closed the area and conducted searches.

"The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday conducted a wide-scale operation to round up people with the aid of helicopters and infantry south of Qalqilyah and the Kafr Jammal area, and detained some 10 wanted men."

7 Jan Incidents in Territories Reported

TA0801184991

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 8 January in a page 12 report by Jon Immanuel states: "Dozens of tear gas canisters were fired yesterday in al-Fari'ah, northeast of Nabulus, during a demonstration at the camp where a 12-year-old boy was shot to death Saturday. A 15-year-old youth was shot and wounded in the knee, Palestinian sources said.

"In Janin, two were injured in clashes, including Fawqan Bulbul, 14, moderately wounded in the head. In Tulkarm, Mahama Salamah, 13 was struck in the jaw by a bullet, Palestinian sources said.

"A border policeman was injured in the head by a stone during a clash in Silwan in East Jerusalem.

"In the Gaza Strip, clashes were reported in Jabalyah and in Bani-Suhaylah. Four minor injuries were reported.

"In Rafah, the body of a man, apparently beaten to death, was found and brought to al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus."

THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 8 January in a report by Michael Rotem on page 12 states that in Rehovot the body of a 43-year-old Gazan was "found yesterday morning in a vineyard where he was employed near Gedera." The report adds that "police suspect that the murder was for nationalistic reasons."

A report by Michael Rotem on page 1 of THE JERUSALEM POST says that in Tel Aviv "a disaster was avoided last night when a hand grenade, hurled from a speeding car at a crowded pizzeria on Dizengoff Street, failed to explode. Sappers told the JERUSALEM POST that if the grenade had exploded, dozens would have been killed and injured." The report adds that "roadblocks were set up to capture the perpetrators, reportedly Palestinian terrorists, police sources said," and notes that "on December 1, another grenade was thrown at the same pizzeria, but it also failed to explode."

9 Jan Incidents in Territories Reported

TA1001111791 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Jan 91 p 13

[Report by David Regev, Roni Shaqed, Hayim Broida, Tzvi Singer, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] A bus driver and a soldier yesterday fired at houses in the north Jerusalem neighborhood of Bayt Hanina after their bus was pelted with stones. [passage omitted]

In Jabalyah, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly injured when stones were thrown at his observation post. He received medical treatment in Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown yesterday at an IDF patrol in Gaza. No damage was caused and there were no casualties.

A group of settlers from 'Ofra went night to the village of 'Ayn Yabrud, whose main road stretches as far as their settlement, on Tuesday night and damaged about 20 houses and a brick factory. The event followed an incident the night before in which several 'Ofra cars were stoned while passing through the village. IDF troops imposed a curfew on the village.

In a series of disturbances in the Gaza Strip yesterday, in the wake of the deportation of four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] men to Lebanon, 17 locals sustained slight to medium injuries. This was reported by Arab sources.

A general strike marking the beginning of the 38th month of the intifadah was held yesterday throughout the Strip, and departure for jobs in Israel was sparse.

About 30 tourists from a New York temple were stoned in Nabulus.

No-Confidence Motions on Deportations Defeated

TA0801095291 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jan 91 p 12

[Report by Asher Walfish]

[Text] The Knesset last night voted down three motions of no-confidence in the government because of the decision to expel four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists from the Gaza Strip. The vote was 56 to 21 with 12 abstentions.

The motions were presented by the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, the Progressive List for Peace, and the Arab Democratic List. Many Labor MK's [Knesset Members] slipped out of the chamber before the vote.

Arens Meets With Bethlehem Area Notables

TA0801130191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens met this morning with Arab notables from the Bethlehem area, including the mayors of Bethlehem, Bayt Jala, and Bayt Sahur. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the defense minister called upon his interlocutors to work for a reduction in the scope of violence in order to promote dialogue. During the meeting, the latest developments in the region were also discussed.

Arab Leaders: Villagers Ordered To Vacate Lands

TA0801112791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jan 91 p 12

[Report by David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Shefar'am—The government is planning a "new wave of land expropriation" to build homes to house new immigrants, Arab leaders charged yesterday.

They said land-owners in villages near Nazareth had recently been ordered by the Israel Lands Administration to vacate their land.

There had been no expropriation of Arab land in Galilee since the 1970's, Dr. Alexander Bligh, the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, stressed in response. "There is, however, a process under way to prepare emergency land space in the event that it is needed for public purposes."

Muhammad Zaydan, chairman of the national council of Heads of Arab Local Councils, said the total area affected covered some 8,000 dunams.

The Arab council heads are planning to stage a rally in Kafr Kana, one of the four villages reportedly affected, unless the orders are canceled.

Zaydan noted that the land in question was cultivated, with most of it given over to olive groves. "There is sufficient spare land available for building purposes without the need to expropriate land owned by Arabs or Jews," he declared. [passage omitted]

Six Airlines Suspend Flights to Israel

TA0701203291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The airline companies which have so far not announced that they will stop flying to Israel will continue their normal flight schedules for the time being. This was announced in Tel Aviv by a representative of the companies. Six foreign airlines have either already stopped flying to the region or will do so in several days. They are Pan Am, Alitalia, Scandanavian Airlines, and the airline companies of South Africa, Poland, and Cyprus. The German airlines, Lufthansa, joined them today. The company's Frankfurt headquarters said that it will fly to the region up to 14 January to assist its nationals in returning home.

Tourism Drops Four Percent in 1990

TA1001090891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jan 91 p 10

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[Text] Despite the substantial drop in tourism over recent months, there were only four percent fewer visitors to Israel in 1990 than the year before and five percent more than in 1988, the Tourism Ministry reported yesterday.

In total, some 1,367,800 people entered the country last year.

However, this was primarily due to an excellent tourist season during the first eight months of the year.

In December, only 63,000 people arrived in the country, other than as immigrants—42 percent fewer than came in December 1989. Of these, some 50,500 were tourists.

The number of visitors who came by air dropped 10 percent for the year as a whole. But adjusting for seasonal factors, air arrivals in November and December averaged 25 percent less than in the previous two months and 54 percent less than in the June-August period.

'March of Wrath' To Head For U.S. Embassy

JN1201093791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Pharmacist Taysir al-Humsi, pharmacists' doyen and head of the doyens' council, will hold a press conference at 1230 today at the Professional Associations' Complex during which he will discuss the arrangements for the march of wrath which will proceed at 1200 on Monday from the Professional Associations' Complex to the U.S. Embassy in Jabal Amman.

He will also discuss the arrangements for the popular rally which will be held at 1600 on Monday in the Hashemite Square in expression of the Jordanian masses' anger and as a show of popular national unity in Jordan.

Conflicting Report

JN1301074291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Jan 91 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—A massive popular demonstration against the U.S. and in solidarity with Iraq, scheduled Monday, is expected to gather the highest number of participants in Jordan since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, organisers said Saturday.

Billed as the "march of anger," the demonstration will for the first time include both the Islamic movements and the leftist and nationalist groups, thus expecting tens of thousands from across the Kingdom to take part, transportation will be provided for those in remote areas.

The march is scheduled to start from the Professional Associations Complex at 1:30 p.m. and end at the Amman national stadium at the Sports City at 3 p.m.; at the stadium, speakers representing all political groups will address the demonstrators at a rally.

Although previous reports said that the demonstration, organised by the professional association, would head towards the American Embassy to protest, the organisers decided against it, Taysir Himsi, head of the Jordan Pharmacists Association said Thursday.

"We discussed the route of the march with our brothers in the Islamic movement and we agreed to hold a popular rally at the stadium instead," Himsi told reporters at a press conference.

He added that a delegation, representing all political groups in Jordan, would deliver a message to the American ambassador protesting "the U.S. and Zionist threats against the Arab people and nation."

The government has approved the march and the rally, organisers said, but they would not approve a popular demonstration to take place in front of the American Embassy for fear of a possible outbreak of violence.

According to an organiser who did not want to be identified, the government has continuously banned massive popular protests in front of the U.S. embassy to avoid possible rioting, and political leaders have abided by the ban "to maintain order and protect the unified position of the people and government on the Gulf."

Himsi said that the march and the "rally of national unity is to stress the solidarity of the people with Iraq and against the new crusader campaign against the Arab and Islamic people and nation."

"Arabs and Muslims will not sit idly by; the anger will reach American interests everywhere in the world in a courageous popular revolution to suppress the colonial and expansionist greed in our Arab region," Himsi said.

He criticised the Arab leaders allied with the U.S. and described as "traitors" the Arab leaders who have rejected a linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue saying they were enemies of the Arab people's aims and aspirations.

Although Himsi called on all peace-loving nations to exert all their efforts to try to stop the U.S. from starting a war in the region, Ibrahim Ghawshah, a leader of the Palestinian Islamic movement Hamas, appealed to Iraqi president Saddam Husayn to make the first hit and the target to be Israel.

In the name of the Islamic movements everywhere, we appeal to President Saddam and Iraqi leadership not to wait to be hit first and to make the first hit on Israel," said Ghawshah, whose group is to participate in the demonstration.

He said that such an attack on Israel would have positive effects and divide the U.S. alliance into two camps, "the camp of the believers and that of the non-believers."

"An attack on Israel would also break the head of the obstinate Israelis who have not budged from our land for over forty years, and it would be the appropriate response to the massive Jewish immigration to Palestine," Ghawshah said, adding that he did not think anyone present at the press conference table would disagree with such an appeal, expected to be repeated at the rally. The others, from leftist and nationalist political activists attending, did not comment on his statement.

The Islamist leader added that the members of the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamic movements everywhere were prepared to move if the U.S. hit Iraq or if war broke out in the region.

"Our Muslim brothers everywhere are prepared to fight with all their power and might for the just cause of Arabs and Muslims," he said.

Badran Addresses Senate; Set for 'Worst Scenario'

NC1301162791 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1210 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Address by Prime Minister Badran to the Jordanian Senate, in Amman on 13 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] Mr. Speaker, brothers, honorable members of the Senate: As you have pointed out, the crisis we are experiencing is the most serious the world has ever seen—affecting not only Jordan but the whole world. The recent accelerating developments and successive resolutions passed by the UN Security Council—12 resolutions in five months—are unprecedented in the history of the world body. [passage omitted]

We in Jordan do not see 15 January as signalling the start of war. We believe and insist that the peace option still stands. Even if war should break out, God forbid, Jordan will still pursue tireless efforts to end it, because we are fully convinced that war is not the right approach to resolving this issue. The road to a peaceful solution is still open, subject to keeping an open mind on the peace option. Aside from our adherence to principles, we simply do not understand why this issue should be addressed in this military fashion. Nor do we see the need for such a massive concentration of troops from around the world seeking a resolution of the crisis. We do believe that a peaceful way out is still possible. We do not understand why the United States is so keen on the war option. There are two issues in our region; the Palestine issue is the number one question, and its peaceful resolution has been obstructed for too long. [passage omitted]

Your are all too aware of the devastating consequences of war to the world, if it came to that. You realize that the civilization of the world depends on the flow of oil from this region, which contains 65 percent of the world's reserves. If these were to be destroyed, it would be at least 25 years, according to experts, before it begins to flow again. Consider the consequences in terms of human losses, and the terrible price the region will have to pay. Studies have shown that available transportation and hospitals will fail to accommodate all the war casualties. Consider the environmental impact of any battle in the Gulf. Environmentalists point out that the consequences would be felt as far as 1,000 miles away. Why should the world be made to suffer the enormity of such damage, when the door is wide open for peace, specifically by addressing the Palestine question as we do the Kuwait issue? [passage omitted]

We in Jordan are braced for the worst scenario, and there is nothing wrong with preparing yourself for the worst, because in the case of a relaxation, we will be fully prepared on the home front. We have completed our preparations on the defensive front as well. As I have told the House of Representatives, we will confront any penetration of Jordanian territory by Israel with all resources at our disposal. Under no circumstances will we let this happen. On that score, the Arab states, and Syria in particular, have a clear position—any aggression against Jordan will be seen as targeting Syria, with the Jordanian-Syrian front being indivisible. Any breach of the Jordanian front will be treated as a violation of the Syrian front. We know that Syria will move from its territory to counter any breach of Jordanian territory, and the same holds true for Iraq.

You must recall that the penultimate Arab summit [in Amman] passed a unanimous resolution to the effect that any aggression against Jordan is to be viewed as aggression against the whole Arab nation, and that Jordan's national security is vital to pan-Arab security. We will demand the enforcement of this summit resolution. [passage omitted]

'Izz-al-Din on Peace Prospects, King's Efforts

JN1301101591 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din has stated that there are still opportunities to find a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis despite the failure of the Geneva talks. In an interview with the German Television, ARD, he said that there are many parties interested in peace and that the coming days will witness extensive moves for this purpose.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] [Words indistinct] the reaction of the Jordanian Government to the failure of peace talks yesterday?

['Izz-al-Din] Of course, we are watching things as they evolve. We do not consider what happened yesterday as a total failure. We still feel that there are certain doors to be opened and certain opportunities available. We are somewhat encouraged that the secretary general of the United Nations is going to visit Baghdad. We are also encouraged that the Europeans are still interested and might move in one way or another, and we expect some Arab movement during the coming few days. So, we do not think matters are totally closed.

[Reporter] Do you expect any move from Saddam Husayn?

['Izz-al-Din] At the end of the day, of course, an Iraqi move is going to be one of the major things. But, we expect everyone to move at the same time and with all that filtered out from the talks between Secretary Baker and Mr. 'Aziz. I think that the six hours of discussions are something that should have been done before, but now that they have been held, they could mark the beginning of a political diplomatic process and not the end of one. We would like to think that this meeting is the beginning and not the end of a process.

[Reporter] What do you think should be done now to save peace? Who should move?

['Izz-al-Din] I think all the parties should move at the same time. I think every one has got to move a little bit, and there is a chance of movement. I think [word indistinct] every one had indicated if one had read carefully what Secretary Baker and Minister 'Aziz had said. Every one used some sort of code, so, I think the coming few days should concentrate on decoding what every one was trying to say.

[Reporter] Do you think if the Americans make a small step toward the Palestine question, Saddam Husayn will make a big step?

['Izz-al-Din] I think the Iraqis have been very open, linking both the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian crisis, and there has been some movement toward satisfying the need to concentrate on the Palestinian problems. So, if this could be crystallized, if a clear message were sent, if there was a clear signal, then the world community would handle the Palestinian question in the same manner and with the same, let us say, ability that the Gulf crisis was handled. I think that could be the beginning of a breakthrough.

[Reporter] How do you describe the move of his majesty the king who returned from Europe tonight?

['Izz-al-Din] I think he is of course very eager to move quickly during the coming few days to try to find, or rather continue to find a political settlement. I think he was satisfied during his visit to several European capitals that there is enough concern to continue the involvement of these capitals, whether it is Bonn, or Rome, or Luxembourg, or London, all of the leaders of these states are interested to share in any possible manner in finding a political solution. So, I think from this angle one can be a little bit optimistic. [end recording]

Badran: Iraqi Army To Cross Border Only If Asked

JN1201110591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Jan 91 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Mudar Badran said this week that the Iraqi army will not cross the Jordanian border unless the Jordanian government requested from Baghdad military support in case of an Israeli attack.

"Iraq will not cross the Jordanian border unless there was an official Jordanian request and only for the purpose of defending Jordan," Mr. Badran said.

He said that the Iraqi leaders did not object to such terms and were in full agreement with the Jordanian view on the issue. "It was discussed and agreed upon (with Iraq)", he said.

In a joint interview with the Jordan Times and the Christian Science Monitor, the premier held the U.S. responsible "for leading the world towards war or towards peace".

Mr. Badran warned, however, that any Israeli incursion into Jordanian territory—whether to attack Iraq or Jordan itself—will be viewed "as an act of aggression."

"We shall not allow any incursions" into Jordan, he pledged, reiterating that Jordan would then seek help from Syria, Iraq and Egypt.

Concern in Jordan about a possible Israeli incursion have been intensified by the faltering diplomatic efforts to solve the Gulf crisis. Jordanian officials and analysts fear that in case of hostilities erupting in the Gulf, Israel would either launch an attack and occupy a strip of Jordanian territories to pave the way for a forced mass exodus of Palestinians or would launch an allout invasion against Jordan.

"We do not exclude any possibilities," Mr, Badran said.

Iraq has threatened to retaliate against Israel if it was attacked by the U.S. and American allied forces deployed in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Badran said that as far as Jordan was concerned any Israeli infiltration regardless of the circumstances would be viewed as an act of aggression that warrants Jordanian and Arab response.

Mr. Badran disclosed, however, that Jordan has received assurances that Israel would not attack Jordan in case of a war in the Gulf.

"We have received assurances that Jordan would not be attacked in the event of an Iraqi retaliation", he said.

Asked whether there were direct Israeli assurances that Israel would not intervene in a military confrontation, Mr. Badran said: "We did not receive assurances from the Americans but from other parties... that Israel was asked to refrain from any involvement and from taking any military action."

He did not elaborate but said that the U.S. would risk the collapse of the alliance if Israel attacked Jordan.

"The U.S. will lose the initiative and would embarrass Egypt and the other Arab countries (the U.S. allies). Therefore it has to consider the repercussions of an Israeli involvement on (Arab) public opinion as the people will pressure their governments to move against Israel," he said.

He predicted that an Israeli attack against Jordan would shift the attention from the Gulf crisis which would then be pushed to the backburner.

A well-placed Jordanian source said that an Israeli attack against Jordan would be viewed as a dangerous sign reflecting a negative American attitude towards the country.

"If the U.S. will allow such an attack it will reflect an American stand towards Jordan." he warned.

Mr. Badran stressed that Jordan would not be party to a military conflict in the Gulf but would fight if it had to defend its sovereignty and territory.

"Jordan is not a party to the military conflict... therefore any Jordanian involvement will only be in defence of its sovereignty and territory," he said.

"Jordan will then defend itself with all its capabilities and will seek the military aid of all the Arab countries against an Israeli intervention," he vowed.

Reports from Tel Aviv indicate that Israeli leaders are divided on whether Israel should be involved in the conflict or not. For while some Israeli analysts and officials believe that Israel should take part to defend its interests and role in the Arab region others warn against the repercussions of its involvement on the U.S. alliance against Baghdad.

Some Arab and Western analysts believe that Israel is basically concerned about maintaining its role as the U.S. strategic ally in the region.

"The Gulf crisis has proved that Israel could not do much to defend the U.S. interests," said one Arab analyst. Pro-Israeli analysts, however, argue that Israel is the "main strategic asset to the U.S. and the least expensive". This has been the gist of a half page advertisment by pro-Israeli lobbyists which appeared in a recent issue of the Washington-based U.S. News and World Report.

Some Jordanian anaylsts and officials say that Israel might seize the opportunity to assert its role through a direct involvement in the conflict from the outset by either attacking Jordan or striking against major Iraqi military strategic sites to help the U.S.-led forces in the Gulf.

Mr. Badran implied that although he believed that an Israeli involvement would back-fire against the American interest in maintaining the alliance against Baghdad, Jordan had to be alert to all possibilities. But he denied that there were recent Jordanian manoeuvres on the border. "There were no manoeuvres at the border, although there have been reinforcements of our defensive capabilities," he said.

Mr. Badran warned that a military conflict in the Gulf would result in an international human catastrophe on the political, economic and ecological level.

"The battlefield of the war will be the oilfields, the ports and transportation means which channel oil to the rest of the world... a war will stop the flow of oil for at least, according to estimates, 15 years," he said.

He repeated his warnings that a military confrontation in the Gulf will undermine many of the Arab regimes in a clear allusion to the U.S. allies in the Arab world.

"In the case of war many of the Arab regimes will not be able to stand in the face of their peoples. There will be radical changes in these regimes and the U.S. will lose its allies," he said.

Mr. Badran, however, expressed the view that a peaceful solution was still possible even though the logic of war seems to be prevailing over the logic of peace.

"It is in the U.S.' hands either to lead the world towards peace or to lead the world towards war," he said.

UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar Arrives

Makes Arrival Statement

JN1101202891 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Amman this evening en route to Baghdad. The United Nations chief held a press conference at the airport upon his arrival.

[Begin Perez de Cuellar recording] This is a mission of peace. And I am hopeful that I will obtain during my discussions with the president and the authorities of Iraq the political wind of achievement together with the secretary general of the United Nations which actually is addressing them on behalf of the international community. [Words indistinct] a peaceful solution to the present problems, the very unfortunate problem we are all facing today. [end recording]

Meets King, Further on Arrival

JN1101214791 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at al-Nadwah Palace today. During the meeting they exchanged views on the Gulf crisis and stressed the need to continue efforts to find a political solution. The UN secretary general briefed His Majesty King Husayn on the outcome of his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris today and the results of his meeting with the EC foreign ministers in Geneva this afternoon.

His Majesty King Husayn stressed the importance of the UN role in finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and to all the problems of the region, as well as the importance of the visit Perez de Cuellar is to pay to Baghdad tomorrow, Saturday.

UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar arrived in Amman today on a short visit to Jordan. Perez de Cuellar made a short statement to the press upon arrival in Amman. He said he is optimistic about his forthcoming visit to Baghdad and his meeting with President Saddam Husayn. He added that he would discuss with President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi officials the situation in the Gulf and the ways to find a peaceful solution, pointing out that the Palestine question will be one of the topics he will discuss with Iraqi leaders. He also expressed hope that Iraqi leaders will have the political desire to implement Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

Asked by the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY about American and allied warships' seizure and inspection of ships heading toward and leaving the Port of al-'Aqabah despite Jordan's commitment to the Security Council resolution on the Gulf crisis, he said that the Security Council will discuss the matter. He also denied news agencies' reports that he was carrying a peace plan to the

Iraqi leadership consisting of five points, including the withdrawal of the foreign forces from the Gulf and the convening of an international peace conference. He also said he was happy to be in Jordan and meet with his Majesty King Husayn. He was received by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and a number of officials.

2d Meeting With King

NC1201092891 Paris AFP in English 0914 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, Jan 12 (AFP)—United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar met here Saturday with King Husayn for the second time in less than 24 hours to discuss the increasing threat of war in the Gulf, authoritative sources said.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who arrived late Friday from Geneva, had said he was carrying no specific plans for his talks Saturday with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn but hoped the meeting would lead to implementation of U.N. resolutions to solve the crisis, sparked by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"I am hopeful that I will obtain in my discussions with the president and authorities of Iraq the political will of achieving some peaceful solution to the present problem, a very unfortunate problem which we are in today," he said in an arrival statement.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar is also expected to meet with Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, currently visiting Jordan, before he flies to Baghdad, the sources said.

The U.N. chief will seek to arrange new U.S.-Iraqi talks during his talks with President Husayn, Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said Friday.

Mr. al-Masri told Agence France-Presse that in his 11th-hour bid to avert war in the Gulf, one of the aims of the U.N. chief was "to organize a new meeting between the United States and Iraq."

Talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva Wednesday failed to produce a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar's visit comes three days before the expiry of the January 15 U.N. deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face war.

U.S., UK Said Sabotaging Mission

JN1301121091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Jan 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Perez de Cuellar's Mission"]

[Text] It is hard to predict what will come out of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's talks with President Saddam Husayn in spite of the optimism the international emissary expressed in Amman before his departure for Baghdad. What is noticeable, however, is that Perez de Cuellar's mission is facing deliberate sabotage by the U.S. secretary of state and the British foreign secretary who are now beating the drums of war in the region in an unprecedented manner and who, at the same time, are marketing the lie that says any move now to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestine question will be considered a reward to the Iraqi president.

It is worth reminding that the fate of Perez de Cuellar's mission hinges on what he may offer to President Saddam to embody the principle of dealing with the international resolutions on the basis of equal standards. This is because Iraq has never objected to arriving at a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis, but it objects to, and resists the U.S. conduct that seeks to establish selectivity in dealing with the international resolutions through this crisis. The UN secretary general should not neglect this clear fact and therefore, he should offer what one can be convinced of as being useful to achieve the indispensable balance needed in dealing with those resolutions.

This is one point. The second point is that no one doubts the fact that Perez de Cuellar realizes that swift action to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question is not a reward to any one, but is a duty the international body has been lazy in performing for many years and a responsibility this organization has failed to shoulder seriously. The result was, and is still, exemplified by the suffering the Palestinian people have to put up with, which is represented by being denied their land and rights and by the bloody crimes to which they are subjected by the Israeli aggressors. Undoubtedly, Perez de Cuellar realizes that keeping the Palestine question the way it has been for the past years is a reward for the Israeli aggressors and that the United States' insistence on hindering any move to settle it is a reaffirmation of that reward.

The third point is that one can think that the beating of the drums of war, which is growing now at the hands of Baker and Hurd, will not prevent Baghdad from listening with an open mind to Perez de Cuellar. This is because when it adopts its stands, makes its decisions, and performs its work, Baghdad does not proceed from emotions or by being drawn into the sphere of reactions, but is governed in all of this by the pan-Arab view of interests. Therefore, it is important for Perez de Cuellar not to be influenced by all this clamor.

The UN secretary general's mission is the most critical and serious mission seen by the region and the world for decades. If Baghdad has welcomed this diplomatic effort, then the least that one can expect is for Washington and London to stop disrupting this mission and give it the opportunity to be conducted in a calm atmosphere away from saber-rattling and threats.

UN Secretary General Mission Viewed

NC1301203791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Jan 91 p 1, 16

[Editorial: "Going Back to the United Nations"]

[Text] The UN secretary general's mission is clear evidence before the whole world of the failure of the U.S. policy of belligerence and its continued wager on forcing Iraq to yield to blackmail, threats of force, and the new imperialist language.

This mission also provides clear proof of the fact that international legitimacy has recovered its true role and stripped away that of the United States, after wasting many months awash in arrogant press statements and preparations for aggression, while completely ignoring and disregarding sanity and dialogue.

Thus, Perez de Cuellar goes to Iraq free of U.S. shackles, and will speak on behalf of the whole international community, which believes that peace in Palestine is a prize for the whole world and justice for the Palestinian Arab people—who for decades have been suffering hitherto unknown terrors—and not a prize for the Iraqi president, as the Israeli occupation authorities claim.

There is no doubt that Perez de Cuellar realizes, more so than any other international political personality, that U.S. logic has been dropped in favor of his own—the logic of justice, fairness, and equal standards in dealing with the causes of nations, especially the issues and crises of the Middle East.

He realizes very well through his more than seven-year-long efforts to convene an international peace conference in the Middle East, that this region is the key to peace in this world, and that it will continue to be the key to war as long as justice is not retrieved for its Arab people, who want to live a dignified and honorable life.

Perez de Cuellar travels to Iraq backed by great international support and guarded by huge popular protection, which is concerned with rendering his mission a success by adopting the approach of justice and international legitimacy regarding all its resolutions, without distinguishing between this or that resolution to please this or that country.

Perhaps Perez de Cuellar knows exactly that the U.S. ultimatum that draws a dividing line between war and peace on the 15th of January is not a sanctimonious date. He realizes that the crises in the region need patience and dedication to be solved justly. He also realizes that peace deserves his time and attention, which is necessary especially since the call for war and mobilization has taken a long time, starting from the beginning of August last year up until this point in time.

The United States has crippled the Arab and UN roles under the delusion that through threats and intimidation, it would create a situation where it would be the only policeman of the world. The magic turned against its magician in this case; the U.S. Administration is now finding that the policy of force has forced it it to confront a catastrophe face-to-face. It hastened to bless the efforts of the UN secretary general, which we also bless, but from a different standpoint—the standpoint of someone who insists on justice, fairness, and dignity, irrespective of the price to be paid.

The head of international legitimacy is a trustworthy person because he speaks the language of justice and right. Our experiences with him during the Iraq-Iran war revealed a respectable and fair political figure who cares about world peace because he proceeds from a position characterized by responsibility, wisdom, and distance from limited interests.

UK Foreign Secretary Hurd Arrives in Amman

NC1301133691 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd arrived in Amman today for talks with His Majesty King Husayan and top Jordanian officials. In an arrival statement to journalists, Mr. Hurd said Iraq will have to leave Kuwait or declare its intention to do so. Hurd said an international peace conference on the Palestine question is a possibility. The EC, he added, has agreed that a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis is contingent on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Meets With King Husayn

NC1301161791 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd at the Royal Court this afternoon.

They exchanged views on the Gulf crisis and the UN secretary general's efforts to reach a political settlement to the crisis.

[In an Amman-datelined report on Hurd's arrival statement, Paris AFP in English at 1433 GMT on 13 January adds: "An unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait would be followed by an agenda to settle regional problems, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said here Sunday, though he refused to tie the Gulf crisis to the Palestinian question.

["'It is very important that the message to (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn should be a clear one,' Mr. Hurd told reporters on his arrival from the United Emirates. "The message is that he needs to withdraw unconditionally from the Arab state of Kuwait. Once that has happened there is going to be an agenda, some of it new, some of it familiar,' he added.

[The AFP report adds that Hurd "described the possible convocation of an international peace conference on the Middle East as 'a good technique,'" and said that such a conference would convene "'as soon as it can be prepared with a chance of success.'" It notes that Hurd also expressed support for Perez de Cuellar's "peace mission."]

Speaks After Talks With King

LD1301182991 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1540 GMT 13 Jan 91

[By Tom McMullan, PRESS ASSOCIATION diplomatic correspondent, in Amman]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said today that he accepted Arab fundamentalism could be a factor in the Gulf crisis if fighting broke out between Iraq and the multi-national force. He was talking to reporters in Amman after talks with King Husayn of Jordan.

Earlier Jordanian Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din told British reporters that the Arabs at present were "very emotional." He said: "They are in a very itchy state. They fear a new wave of colonialism."

Members of the Jordan Government said that if Israel became involved in a conflict—almost regardless of the reason—the Anti-Iraq coalition would be liable to collapse.

Mr Hurd himself told reporters that King Husayn was very apprehensive at the prospects of a conflict. He said: "Jordan feels very exposed and vulnerable." The foreign secretary said King Husayn, who has been regarded as an ally of Saddam Husayn, felt that the Iraqis should withdraw from Kuwait.

Asked if the King was liable to be toppled in a conflict, Mr Hurd replied: "This is a well-run country under good leadership. It is in the interests of Britain that the King and his government should continue." Asked about the role of Arab Fundamentalism, Mr Hurd said: "There is some sympathy for Saddam Husayn in some parts of the Arab world, even though he is not an Arab fundamentalist. It is a minority sympathy which exists in certain countries. It is a factor but less of a problem than one might have expected. It is a factor, just as I hope discontent in Iraq at the failures of the regime is also a factor."

A spokesman at the British Embassy in Amman said the staff of 25 would be cut to 14 within the next day or two. The move comes after Foreign Office advice that British citizens in Jordan, who number about 400, should leave the country. Similar cuts are expected in Israel and Yemen, where British citizens have been adivsed to leave.

Makes Statement; Departs

NC1301203391 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Upon leaving Amman this evening, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd made a statement to the press in which he expressed his thanks to His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and the prime minister for receiving him.

Hurd said that he discussed with His Majesty King Husayn the ways to achieve a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He indicated that he agreed with his majesty on the need to deal with this issue with the necessary seriousness. He said: We support the mission of the UN secretary general to achieve a peaceful solution. He also expressed optimism that this mission will succeed.

Hurd was seen off by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, a number of ministry officials, and the British ambassador in Aamman.

Romanian Foreign Minister Arrives in Amman

To Deliver Message

JN1101101091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase arrived in Amman today on a two-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with senior Jordanian officials. Mu'tasim al-Bilbaysi, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, and Dr. Kahlid 'Ubaydat, director of the Foreign Ministry Political Department, received him at the airport.

In a press statement, the Romanian minister said he is bringing a message from the Romanian president to His Majesty King Husayn dealing with the current efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. He added that Romania is seeking the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis, stressing the need to continue efforts to avert war in the region. The Romanian minister noted the importance of establishing peace and averting the dangers of war for all mankind.

Nastase Arrival Statement

JN1101110991 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Remarks made by Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase on arrival in Amman on 10 January, question and answers in English—recorded]

[Text] [Nastase] First of all, we have to take care about our common future in trying to avoid a war.

[Reporter] What do you hope to achieve in your visit to the region? Do you have any new initiative towards a peaceful settlement for the crisis?

[Nastase] I am coming now from Damascus. And, well, I handed a written message to President al-Asad. And I also have a message for His Royal Highness Husayn [title as heard]. And these messages are coming from the Romanian president. And we are trying through our efforts which means quiet diplomacy, but also public statements, in which starting from the observance of the resolutions of the Security Council and trying at the same time to listen to all the parties involved and trying, well, to make the necessary arrangements to avoid war. And I think this is a mission of good will. It is nothing in the sense of very concrete proposals. It is much more a kind of action in which we are trying to make a better frame for a peaceful solutions.

King Confers With Nastase

JN1101110091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received this afternoon Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, who conveyed a written message to his majesty from his excellency the Romanian president dealing with the situation in the Gulf region and bilateral relations. During the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn explained to the Romanian guest Jordan's efforts to solve the Gulf crisis peacefully, especially since Romania is a member of the UN Security Council.

They also discussed relations between Jordan and Romania and ways to promote them. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; and on the Romanian side by the Romanian delegation accompanying Mr. Nastase.

Romania's Role in Gulf Cited

JN1101111591 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Interview with Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase by Rana Najm in Amman on 10 January—recorded]

[Text] [Nastase] Romania is a member of the Security Council. We feel that we have a certain responsibility for trying to cope with a major crisis in the post-war era. So we are trying to use our position in the Security Council as a kind of catalyst in making use and trying to build the best channels of communication. So, we do not want to have a very concrete role of making concrete proposals, but much more, having [changes thought] building an environment of good will in which different messages could reach in a positive way their targets.

So, our message has a general scope trying to make all the parties concerned understand that Romania is willing to use its capacity of being a member of the Security Council as a kind of messenger of peace.

[Najm] After the 'Aziz-Baker talks yesterday in Geneva did not bring any real major breakthrough. What do you think is the next step?

[Nastase] Well, I think probably we put too much confidence and too much hope in this meeting. This made a certain pressure on this meeting. I think it is only part of the process of reaching a peaceful solution on the 15th of January.

I am still hopeful that even if the direct contacts started so late, there is a kind of logistic of the contacts which is already in existence. A lot of political people are willing to help through, to send messages, to try to help. So, I think it is a very special environment, political environment, as never before in the past I think, in which almost everyone wants to help. It's like the fire which is under certain control and well, alot of people are trying to help to extinguish.

Al-Masri, Nastase Discuss Gulf

JN1201110291 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] A round of official talks was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning between the Jordanian side led by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and the Romanian side by Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase. The talks centered on developments in the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question as well as relations between the two fraternal countries.

Al-Masri described His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to defuse the volatile situation in the region and avoid military confrontation and its tragic impact on all parties. He also stressed that Jordan still adheres to the peaceful option as the only option to solve the crisis. He called for unified efforts to achieve a political settlement based on the implementation of international legitimacy in order to bring about comprehensive peace in the region. The talks also touched on the situation in the occupied territories and the grave repercussions of the influx of large numbers of Soviet Jews.

For his part, the guest minister stressed that his country is committed to exerting every possible effort to reach a political solution to the Gulf crisis, in its capacity as a member of the UN Security Council. He said success in this issue will certainly make room for finding a just and lasting solution to the Palestine question on the basis of international legitimacy.

The two sides then discussed ways of promoting bilateral relations in the service of their joint interests and also agreed on tangible measures in this field.

Libya's Jallud Arrives En Route to Baghdad

Comments on Crisis

NC1301142391 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, arrived in Amman this morning en route to Baghdad. Maj. Jallud told correspondents on arrival:

[Begin recording] [Jallud] The Arab nation is facing a grave challenge and the consequences, whether negative, God forbid, or positive, will affect the Arab situation. Either we proceed forward or the pan-Arab liberation movement will suffer a setback. We pray to God that it will not fail. We naturally rely on the Arab masses. When Iraq entered Kuwait, the Arabs were either with or against it. But following the entry of the United States and NATO, the Arabs had no choice but to support Iraq and confront the NATO Crusader onslaught against the Arab nation.

[Unidentified reporter] What would be the Libyan position in the event the allied forces launch a war against Iraq?

[Jallud] We have the People's Congresses in Libya and their position will be that of Libyan Jamahiryah.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Jallud] I believe so. We believe that the international forces, specifically the United States and the West, should accept that this is an Arab issue and give every possible opportunity to all Arab popular and official forces to search for a solution. This solution can then have an international guarantee. We believe that the decision taken by the Chamber of Deputies in the Soviet Union yesterday is a very important one and a significant, sign because the Soviet Chamber of Deputies asked Gorbachev to exert [efforts] and that the Soviet Union should [word indistinct]. If this decision is followed then it would signal a change in many views.

[Reporter] [word indistinct] Arab Maghreb Union countries are attempting to draw up an Arab-French plan to resolve the Gulf crisis. What is the substance of this plan?

[Jallud] We cannot go into the details of the plan now. The plan is to avert war because the war is taking place in our region and against our nation. If, as we say, we are trying now to liberate Kuwait from Iraq, then the fact is that the entire Arab nation is occupied. The issue has become very complicated. But we want to prevent war or delay it. Naturally this depends on the United States and the readiness of the Arab masses.

[Correspondent] What do you mean when you say delay the war?

[Jallud] To give Arab peace efforts and the efforts of those Europeans who have sense and wisdom an opportunity, and to give the Soviet decision to adopt a peaceful solution an opportunity. [end recording]

Libyan Departs for Baghdad

NC1301202291 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, left Amman for Baghdad this evening after a brief visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn to discuss the Arab situation and developments in the Gulf crisis. Jallud also conveyed to his majesty a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi within the context of the ongoing consultations between the two fraternal countries on the Gulf crisis.

In a press statement, Jallud said that Libya has made a peace initiative from an Arab approach designed to defer war as a step toward eliminating the idea of war from political thinking and to preserve Iraq as a regime and a power because it is part of the Arab nation's assets, in addition to the need to find an Arab solution to the crisis.

Jallud emphasized that any attack on Jordan will be regarded as an attack on Libya and the Libyan people. He said: We are unionists and we do not believe in geography and artificial borders which have been drawn by colonialism and which caused backwardness in the Arab world. The only way out is the establishment of Arab unity that will ensure security and stability for our nation.

Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and the Libyan ambassador in Amman saw Jallud off at the airport.

Border With Iraq Remains Closed, Many Stranded

JN1201125491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Jan 91 pp 1, 5

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's border with Iraq remained closed Friday except for Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese nationals and travellers reported that a few thousand Arabs and Asians were stranded in the no-man's-land between the frontier posts of the two countries.

Witnesses also reported a visible increase in the number of trucks carrying personal belongings of evacuees arriving at the Al-Ruwayshid post, about 350 kilometres northeast of Amman.

Jordan closed the Al-Ruwayshid post for evacuees Wednesday saying the Kingdom was ill-equipped to handle any massive wave of people fleeing Iraq and Kuwait in the event of military conflict in the region.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran told Parliament the Government had asked the Iraqi authorities not to allow any evacuees across the border to Al-Ruwayshid.

Officials said Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese nationals were exempt from the border closure. They noted that Syrian and Lebanese nationals posed no problem or demand except for the use of Jordanian territory for immediate transit.

Travellers said Syrians and Lebanese were driven straight from Al- Ruwayshid to Al-Ramtha on the northwestern border with Syria.

Asian diplomats said meanwhile they were trying to get clarifications from the Jordanian government on the closure order.

Heads of several Asian diplomatic missions and representatives of international relief agencies are scheduled to meet with the Evacuee Wefare Committee Saturday.

The border closure followed repeated Jordanian appeals for reimbursement for the funds it spent to extend facilities to ensure the smooth evacuation of over 865,000 people fleeing Iraq and Kuwait until December.

The government has said that it has incurred total expenses of $56 million and recieved only $12 million as reimbursement and that its efforts to be fully reimbursed have been in vain.

Many countries and the United Nations have said they appreciated Jordan's handling of the evacuation but no money had been forthcoming. The U.N. issued a fresh appeal late Wednesday for funds to support the evacuation process, but it was not immediately clear whether the funds, if collected, would be used to reimburse Jordan.

Jordan has received assistance in kind such as food, blankets, tents, medicine etc. from the international community but little cash to compensate for the amount it spent on extending transport, health and other facilities to the evacuees.

Indian Ambassador to Jordan Gajendra Singh said he had information that about 40 Indian nationals remained stranded in the no-man's-land after the closure of the border.

Pacifico Castro, ambassador of the Philippines, said he was informed that 34 of his countrymen were also in the area.

Both ambassadors and Pakistani and Bangladeshi sources noted that the bulk of the Asian community had left the potential war theatre by end of November and that only a trickle of Asians had been coming through in the past weeks.

Mohammad Yahya Maroofi, chief of mission of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), said he had no information from the Jordanian authorities or anyone else that evacuees of any significant number were stranded in the no-man's-land.

According to Mr. Maroofi and other officials, about 3,000 evacuees remained in Jordan as of Friday. The included 1,781 Vietnamese, 1,179 Sudanese and about 80 Asian nationals (Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and Filipinos).

Some of them were scheduled to fly out Friday and Saturday while others were taking the ferry across the Gulf of Aqaba to Egypt.

In addition, about 450 Somali nationals stranded here and seeking help from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) remained at the Al-'Azraq transit camp and apartments in Amman.

(The Somalis are not classified as "evacuees" since they are arguing that they belong to a clan rival to that of President Siad Barre and could not return home because persecution by the regime awaited them. However, some of them are now hopeful that they would be able to return home in the event that the Siad Barre regime is toppled and the rebel United Somali Congress takes power).

A senior official indicated that Jordan might be willing to allow in a few number of those stranded at the border post if their governments undertook that they would not remain in Jordan for more than 24 hours. This is one of the key themes for Saturday's meeting, diplomats said.

Prime Minister Discusses Border

NC1201134991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman—recorded]

[Excerpts] Amid increasing tension and just 72 hours before the Security Council deadline for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, Jordan's decision not to receive returnees from Iraq and Kuwait is still effective pending its appeal that the international community cover the expenses of housing and (?providing for) them. Jordan expects approximately 2 million people, mostly Egyptians and Palestinians, to flow into Jordan if war erupts in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mudar Badran has announced his government's decision not to receive any returnees from Iraq and Kuwait until the necessary aid is received and a detailed plan for their evacuation is formulated. He pointed out that Jordanian airliners that carry passengers from Amman to Asian countries have been prevented from flying over Saudi airspace. This prompted Amman to make its decision to stop receiving returnees. According to eyewitnesses, the only nationals who were allowed to enter Jordan and in small numbers were Jordanians, Syrians, and Lebanese. These returnees arrived in their own cars and at their own expense. The eyewitness asserted that they saw thousands of Arabs and Asians crowded on the Iraqi side of the common borders.

Preconditions May Relax Closure

JN1301080291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Jan 91 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpt] Amman—Jordan is willing to relax the closure of its border for foreign nationals leaving Iraq and Kuwait subject to certain conditions being met on individual government-to-government basis to ensure the evacuees' welfare and prompt departure from the Kingdom, official and diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The prior conditions, described as "conditionary precautions," were explained to the heads of diplomatic missions in Amman of countries with sizeable number of their nationals and representatives of various international agencies during a meeting with the Evacuee Welfare Committee, officials said.

The three main conditions, according to the officials, are that the Evacuee Welfare Committee is informed in advance of expected arrivals at the Al-Ruwayshid border post, that the respective governments under-take to pay all expenses for feeding and transporting the evacuees and that any international agency or government guarantee their departure from Jordan within a predetermined period of time.

Ambassador Sami Farraj, a member of the Evacuee Welfare Committee, was quoted as telling Saturday's meeting that Jordan's decision, announced Wednesday, to close its borders for evacuees was "misinterpreted and misreported."

"Jordan, which finds itself in a very difficult situation in view of the problems it faces in being reimbursed for the funds it spent on evacuees between August and December, is unable to cope with any massive wave of people across the border without international support for their food, transport and prompt passage home;" this was the message relayed to the meeting by Mr. farraj, according to a diplomatic source.

"So, as long as the concerned governments are ready to undertake written guarantees that their nationals would not impose a burden on Jordanian resources and that the evacuees leave Jordanian territory as soon as possible, then Jordan is willing to allow evacuees to cross the border into the Kingdom," the source said.

This account was confirmed by Jordanian official sources, who pointed out that the cash-strapped Kingdom had spent over $56 million on evacuees since August but received only $12 million in reimbursement.

The Jordanian requirement as outlined Saturday shifts the main focus onto the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which is directly handling the process of arranging flights home for evacuees, as well as to the various countries with tens of thousands of their nationals still living in Iraq and Kuwait who might decide to leave in the event of a war in the region.

While most countries are willing to provide the guarantees sought by the Jordanian government, the final phase of evacuation—the actual homeward flights of evacuees—mostly depends on IOM, which is directly in charge of arranging flights with funds contributed by the international community.

IOM, has already flown home around 140,000 evacuees through Jordan since the Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, has enough pledges of financial assistance from donor countries to foot the bill for 10,000 to 15,000 more evacuees, according to an IOM official.

"But we have not received the actual funds yet," said Rafael Roubillard of the IOM mission in Amman. "We are awaiting instructions from our headquarters in Geneva on the emergency Gulf evacuation plans," he told the Jordan Times.

Mohammad Yahya Maroofi, head of the IOM mission here, told Saturday's meeting that his organisation could ensure the departure home of evacuees in less than 48 hours if their number was limited to groups of les than 200, officials said.

"This is possible under the present circumstances, barring the outbreak of military hostilities," according to another diplomatic source. "But the situation would be totally out of control when the first shot is fired in the Gulf," he said. [passage omitted]

Saudi Exemption Canceled

JN1301121891 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Jan 91 p 20

[By Ahmad Kurayshan]

[Text] Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has decided to cancel all exemptions given to vehicles with Saudi license plates crossing the Jordanian border posts as of yesterday [12 January]. A responsible source at the Interior Ministry explained that the decision applies to trucks, refrigerator trucks, private passenger cars, and taxis.

The source said the measure is in accordance with the principle of reciprocity, especially since transport operations between the two countries are governed by a transport agreement which stipulates that full exemptions should be given to vehicles travelling between the two countries. He pointed out that the Saudi Government has recently terminated the exemptions and this led to this decision in accordance with the principle of reciprocity.

Customs sources at the al-Mudawwarah border post stated that the exemptions used to include the added tax, loading fees, transit books, short-stay fees, and undertakings.

Egyptians Not Allowed To Cross

NC1401115091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Jan 91 p 18

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Al-Ruwayshid border post sources have told AL-DUSTUR that there are no instructions yet about allowing Egyptians to cross into Jordan on their way to Egypt.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY cited Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi as saying that agreement had been reached with the Jordanian Government to allow the Egyptians on the Iraqi-Jordanian to cross into Jordan on their way to their country. He pointed out that Egypt will pay the costs of their transport and that special preparations for that have already been made.

Saudis Deny Use of Airspace for Evacuee Flights

JN1201124691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Jan 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Saudi Arabia has flatly refused to allow chartered Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft carrying Asian evacuees home to use its airspace, RJ sources and relief officials said Friday.

As a result of the Saudi position, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the agency which is handling the flights home of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait through

Jordan, has been forced to sign a charter agreement with the Soviet carrier, Aeroflot, officials said.

The Saudi move, the latest in a series of measures Riyadh has adopted against Jordan for its refusal to join the American-led coalition against Iraq, was first reported by prime Minister Mudar Badran in Parliament Wednesday.

Mr. Badran told the Lower House that one IOM-chartered RJ plane carrying Vietnamese nationals from Amman to Hanoi had to turn back Wednesday after the Saudi authorities refused permission for it to use Saudi airspace.

However, two IOM-chartered planes belonging to Egyptair were allowed to fly through Saudi territory later Wednesday and Thursday, IOM officials said.

Mohammad Yahya Maroofi, who on Friday took over as chief of the IOM mission in Amman from Luca Aiolfi, the IOM-Aeroflot agreement was signed after RJ formally informed the organisation that it was no longer able to offer its aircraft for charter flights through Saudi territory.

RJ officials informed us that they could not offer their planes, and hence we signed an agreement with Aeroflot," Maroofi, and Afghan diplomat, told the Jordan Times Friday.

An RJ source said the airline had sought to find alternate flight paths skirting Saudi airspace but found that it would be too expensive in terms of fuel and other costs.

The IOM-Aeroflot agreement covers five Amman-Hanoi flights starting Jan. 14 after one more Egyptair plane flies home about 200 Vietnamese on Saturday, Maroofi said adding that 1,781 Vietnamese nationals remained in Jordan Friday.

When the Amman-Hanoi flights are completed, the number of Vietnamese evacuated through Jordan since Jan. 2 would have reached 5,104.

RJ officials declined to speculate on the motives behind the Saudi refusal to allow RJ planes under charter to use Saudi territory. But industry sources interpreted it as another form of pressure against Jordan aimed at denying the national carrier revenues.

"It appears that the Saudis also wanted Egyptair to get the business," said one sources.

RJ officials said refular RJ flights to and from Gulf and Far East destinations flying over Saudi Arabia were to close its airspace for all commercial traffic in the event of war in the region.

According to reliable civil aviation sources, Saudi Arabia closure of its territory for commercial air traffic Saturday, 48 hours ahead of the Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. to relinquish Iraq or face war.

Prime Minister Badran told Parliament Wednesday that he had information that Egypt was planning to close its airspace as of Jan. 13. No official statement has been issued in Cairo to this effect yet.

RJ officials said the airline's flights to Europe and North America would not be affected in the event of the closure of Egyptian or Saudi airspace since RJ flight routes to European and North American destinations are through Syrian airspace. It was not immediately known what contingency plans Syria had drawn up to face the exigencies of a military conflict in the Gulf.

An emergency measure drawn up by the International Air Transport Authority (IATA) involves barring civilian aircraft from flying in Gulf skies and a contingency air corridor over Cyprus, Cairo, and Medina to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. This corridor would be used to evacuate civilians or casualties or to ferry medicine and food to the area, according to a spokesman for Cyprus Airways.

Dozens of airlines have announced suspension of flights to the Middle East following a dramatic rise in "war-risk" insurance. Diplomatic sources and airline officials say the insurance would go up further in the next few days and this could also result in very high costs for emergency evacuation flights from the region if war breaks out.

Departure of Foreign Diplomatic Community Noted

JN1301075891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Jan 91 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The diplomatic community in Jordan has shrunk to a bare minimum with the departure this week of dozens of non-essential staff and dependents under travel advisories issued by their governments ahead of Monday's deadline set by the U.N. for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face war.

On the other hand, there are also quite a few diplomatic staff and non-essential officials who have opted to stay on in the country on a voluntary basis after being given a choice to leave.

Western diplomats have been insisting that they were not under any strict government order to leave Jordan, but it appeared Saturday that many countries had indeed ordered out all non-essential staff as well as dependents.

If anything, some governments have also extended their travel advisories to ask their nationals living in Jordan to leave the Kingdom, according to circulars obtained by the Jordan Times.

The situation with international staffers of the U.N. also appeared to have changed since Monday when it was reported that the world body was not planning any evacuation but had left it to the individuals to voluntarily repatriate their family members and dependents.

Europe and U.S.-bound planes were full Thursday and Friday with dependents and family members of diplomats and international staffers of the U.N., according to airline sources.

For many others the destination was Cyprus following what was described by a U.N. source as "a strong suggestion" that the international staffers move their families and dependents out of Jordan in contrast to an "advice for voluntary repatriation" early last week.

In cases where family members or dependents chose to remain in Amman, U.N. procedures call for a "waiver" in which the concerned staffer absolves the world body of all responsibilities.

It also appeared Saturday that many governments had issued the new travel advisories to their diplomatic missions following what was widely perceived in the West as the failure of Wednesday's talks in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

The number of diplomats at the American Embassy was cut to around 20 by Saturday, sources said. "Some of those leaving were shifted to other Middle Eastern countries while others were recalled home," said one of the sources.

The French ambassador here, Denis Bauchard, took the unusual step of calling in the press early Saturday to explain the status of his country's nationals after a special Air France plane flew home 143 French passport holders early Friday.

The ambassador said the total number of French nationals living in Jordan stood at 440 prior to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2. Around half of them were French women married to Jordanians and others included diplomats and their families and expatriates working in the Kingdom.

"For the French women married to Jordanians, Jordan is home and most of them remain here," Mr. Bauchard said estimating at around 200 the number of French nationals remaining here as of Saturday after the scheduled departure later in the day of around 20 to 25 people aboard a regular Air France flight to Paris.

"France considers Jordan as a very friendly country and we are confident that the Jordanian authorities are capable of ensuring our security," he said. The evcuation of the French nationals, he stressed, is only a "precautionary measure" which does not reflect on the security situation in the Kingdom.

Similar statements were made by most European diplomatic missions in Amman.

Spain flew home 160 of its citizens Saturday.

The Spaniards, mostly women married to Jordanians and their children, flew out aboard two hercules Transport planes sent by the Madrid government.

Asian and Third World diplomatic missions have taken steps to keep a close track of their nationals living in the Kingdom. But no definite travel advisories have been issued by any of the Asian countries.

Some Asian countries have expressed concern that it might be almost impossible to fly in charter planes to Jordan if emergency evacuation becomes necessary. "But at this point in time we don't believe that would ever be necessary," said a senior Asian diplomat.

Chief of General Staff Inspects Forward Units

JN1301114491 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The Chief of the General Staff General Fathi Abu-Talib spent most of today inspecting forward Armed Forces units in the frontlines. During the tour, the chief of staff heard briefings from the commanders of these units stressing the preparedness, efficiency, and combat capability of the Armed Forces to confront any aggression.

General Abu-Talib addressed the Armed Forces men on the current conditions of the region and the responsibilities which the Jordanian Army should shoulder in defense of the longest line of confrontation with Israel.

The chief of staff said he was satisfied with the high efficiency and advanced standards of the army units he had inspected.

General Abu-Talib also inspected the forward positions of the Popular Army. He was briefed on their training and preparedness as units supplementing the combat effort of the regular army.

Editorial Views 'Failure' of U.S. Gulf Policy

NC1401110091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Jan 91 p 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Return to the Logic of Sanity"]

[Text] After the passage of over five months since the beginning of the Gulf crisis and all the foreign forces were amassed on Arab territories, and after all the muscle-flexing, statements, and threats, it seems that the international community is returning to the starting point, for which His Majesty King Husayn called, and proceeding from there in search of a political settlement of the crisis.

Form the first moment, his majesty called for sanity, wisdom, and calm, which he insists upon despite all the oppressive animosity, campaigns of threats, and the imposition of a harsh siege. The alternative to a political settlement is war—a war of disasters and horrors for the region and its people, the world, the world economy, and the human environment. Today, while following the political activity, we feel that the United States is about to regain its awareness and to understand what it means to start a fire over an oil well; that Europe knows that any aggression against Iraq and hegemony over the Arab region is an American settling of accounts with the Continent; and that those Arabs who opposed Arab solutions and gave the enemies the chance to thwart all efforts in this direction now understand that the hostile camp arrayed against the Arab nation will put all their heads in the guillotine.

His Majesty King Husayn reaffirmed yesterday, as he has from the first days of the crisis, that the language of pressure and threats leads nowhere. He said that dealing with the region's issues by different standards exposes the aggressive intentions that only arise from designs on Arab land, dignity, and oil. In other words, they want to control our entire existence and future as a nation and homeland. Though the United States has allowed all parties to take action, it has nevertheless imposed a ban on dialogue with Iraq and on any Arab effort. The result now shows the failure of U.S. policy, since Iraq's steadfastness and ability to resist and Baghdad's insistence on dealing with the crises of the Middle East on the basis of one standard are two things that have opened closed minds, relaxed the flexed muscles, and have made the language of threats a cause of ridicule. But logic, maturity, and wisdom once again prevailed and we hope that this trend will gather strength and lead to a comprehensive and just solution to all crises on the basis of a unified standard and one international legitimacy.

U.S. Seen as 'Main Obstacle' to Peace

JN1101183191 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Jan 91 pp 1,14

[Editorial: "The Real Knot in the Gulf Crisis"]

[Text] It is now clear to the whole world that the real main obstacle to a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis is the insistence of the United States in not implementing the UN resolutions concerning the Palestine question. It is also clear that Israel is rejecting a political settlement of the crisis as reported the day before yesterday. This means Israel has opted for war in the Gulf and left it to the United States to make excuses to the world to go through with this decision. If UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has decided to go to Baghdad for a so-called last-minute attempt, it is our duty to be frank to him and tell him that it would be better if he were to go to Washington instead to persuade it to enforce the UN resolutions concerning the Palestine question. This would automatically defuse the Gulf conflict and settle it without a single drop of blood being shed. No doubt, Perez de Cuellar knows this, just as the leaders of the European Community and all world leaders do. The strange thing is, those who know are keeping silent. So, it is time someone had the moral and human courage to tell the United States: It is impossible to sacrifice peace and stability in the region, and perhaps in other parts of the world, by condoning Israel's defiance of the UN resolutions concerning the Palestine question. None of the world leaders has even tried to put pressure on Washington to settle the Palestine question in accordance with the pertinent UN resolutions, although this is definitely the guaranteed course toward resolving the Gulf crisis. Why is it that no one has given Israel an ultimatum to withdraw from the Arab territory it occupied in 1967? Why is there no deadline for this withdrawal? Why do they want to reward Israel for its aggression by forcing the Arabs to establish relations with it?

The knot in the Gulf crisis is the fact that Israel and the United States do not want to find a real solution to the Palestine question at all, nor do they want the Arabs to possess the power that will enable them to regain their rights. The most Israel and the United States will allow the Arabs to do is to make complaints, protests, and statements that get them nowhere. This is why the Geneva talks between 'Aziz and Baker failed. Washington and Tel Aviv were determined to abort the talks so they could carry out their preplanned war decision. Thus, Perez de Cuellar's trip to Baghdad looks like an attempt to place the ball in the Iraqi court. Otherwise, what is preventing the UN secretary general from facing the world community with the truth and speaking up in a loud voice: Come, let us apply international legitimacy to both the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question. Not a single drop of blood would then be shed in this region and peace would prevail in the entire Middle East.

We wonder: Does Perez de Cuellar have the courage to do it? Can President Mitterrand also call on Washington to do it? We hope that the UN secretary general will choose a role other than placing the ball in the Iraqi court. We also hope that the European Community will tackle the knot preventing a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis and the achievement of peace in the region; namely, Israel's insistence on not responding to the UN resolutions concerning the Palestine question, and the American determination to keep the question as it is.

Arabs Urged To Abandon Coalition Against Iraq

JN1301124391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Jan 91 pp 1,16

[Editorial: "Will the Arabs Abort the Great Conspiracy"]

[Text] While the UN Secretary General is getting ready to go to Baghdad today and also hinting at the possibility of deploying UN forces in Kuwait if President Saddam Husayn agrees to withdraw from there, it has been noticed that Baker is also touring the region after aborting his talks with Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva and that British Foreign Secretary Hurd is getting ready to embark on a similar tour.

It is noteworthy that the UN secretary general has avoided any reference to a real settlement of the Gulf crisis by first implementing the UN resolutions concerning the Palestine question, on the consideration that international legitimacy is indivisible. Instead, he dealt with a secondary matter which could only be tackled after implmentating the UN resolutions concerning all the region's problms. It is also noteworthy that the European Community [EC] foreign ministers who met with Perez de Cuellar before leaving for Baghdad and issued a statement calling on President Saddam to implement the UN resolutions on the Gulf, did not include a similar call for Israel to implement the UN resolution concerning its withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory, although they know full well that condoning Israel's mutiny against UN resolutions is the main obstacle preventing Iraq from accepting the UN resolutions concerning the Gulf. Thus, it seems as if Perez de Cuellar and the EC foreign ministers are collaborating in order to throw the ball in the Iraqi court and creating the impression that it is Baghdad which wants to start war in the Gulf. Needless to say, this is is an unfair and unwise method to pursue.

On the other hand, it is noticeable that Baker's tour of the region and the one which Foreign Secretary Hurd is about to make appear as though they are intended to obtain the final approval of the Arab sides in the coalition to begin the aggression against Baghdad. It is no secret that Baker and Hurd also want to openly and squarely place the responsibility for what might happen on these sides before their own masses and the world. Furthermore, They want to extort several more billions to cover the expenses of the aggression.

Therefore, we call upon Perez de Cuellar, a man of good repute, to avoid gambling his reputation and the position of the world organization he is representing in these delicate circumstances. We call upon him to maintain a courageous stand and to deal with the Gulf crisis in a mannr which ensures the honoring of all UN resolutions. Because, this is the only way to a peaceful resolution of the crisis. It is the also only way to save the region from threatening dangers.

We also call upon the EC ministers to adopt a similar courageous stand and to avoid double standards when applying international legitimacy, if they are indeed serious about playing a contructive role to guarantee the peace and stability of the region.

As for the Arab sides in the coalition against Iraq, we appeal to them, within the sight and hearing of all our Arab masses, to immediately wash their hands of this coaliation and to foil the aggressive plan against Iraq, now that it has become clear to them and to the whole world that maintaining Israeli hegemony over the region is the sole aim of the United States, even if this means sacrificing the region, its resources, and those living on it, or even the American soldiers themselves, whose commanders consider them as no more than cheap tools which can be manipulated in order to preserve Israel's ambitions, which also constitute a serious challenge to international resolutions and legitimacy in the region and the world.

The great plot, which is soon to be implemented against the Arab nation on its own territory, can be aborted if the Arab sides in the coalition can break up this coalition by declaring their withdrawal from it, unless the coalition itself were to force Israel to implement the international resolutions concerning the Palestine question at the same time when it is asking Iraq to implement the international resolutions concerning the Gulf crisis. Otherwise, Iraq will be on the forefront opening the doors before the Palestinian people to regain their land and rights. Iraq will not spare any sacrifices for this end.

Domestic Cohesion to Face 'Any Eventuality' Urged

NC1301191091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Jan 91 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "We Stand Like One Man"]

[Text] Under extremely delicate and critical circumstances and at a time when the region is drifting toward the abyss of a major war, our country Jordan remains self-composed as well as strong in its faith and confidence in itself and its ability to pass the difficult test in which this nation's will and vigorous spirit are being tested.

There is no doubt that the current political and military facts require, without delay, the adoption of a series of measures and decisions aimed at preparing our people for the worst eventualities, including the protection of the land and sky of this lofty Arab fortress against any attack regardless of the price and sacrifices.

Jordan is today standing behind His Majesty King Husayn like one man in the trench it has chosen for itself and in the position which the Jordanians have taken, in accordance with their honorable history and bright present, with pride and manliness. They do not fear danger or show weakness once the honor of this people and the future of this homeland are challenged or put to test.

Although we are today reassured about the brave pan-Arab position adopted by our country and are confident of the soundness of the measures taken to defend the homeland against the blatant Zionist ambitions, we are dutybound as citizens to rise to the level of this stage in the nation's life so that efforts will be integrated, national capabilities firmly aligned, and our ability to hold out in the face of all dangers around us increased.

Perhaps the first national requirement at this stage is that we all rise to the level of responsibility and deal with any eventuality on the basis of the rules of good citizenship, which require us not to be dragged behind rumors or unjustified fears, and not to hoard foodstuffs. In the meantime, we should continue to realize that our unity, cooperation, and solidarity are the best and shortest way of overcoming the current impasse and responding to the challenge facing us all.

Al-Shar' Statement on Israel; Gulf Viewed

JN1301123191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Jan 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Doors to Peace Are Not Closed Despite Congress Decision"]

[Text] Although those directly and indirectly concerned with the Gulf crisis have become more anxious after the U.S. Congress voted in favor of the use of force, the signs of relaxation are still appearing on the region's horizon and there is still hope of finding the appropriate way out of this difficult situation, which has been complicated by the absence of dialogue for the past five months.

As his Majesty King Husayn said in his interview with the U.S. television network, ABC, the show of force and the attempts to intimidate and threaten have exacerbated the situation and yielded the opposite results. Therefore, this language must cease if peace efforts are to find their opportunity and if political initiatives are to reach their full extent.

Thus, there are still hopes that the Baghdad meeting between President Saddam and Perez de Cuellar will be marked with flexibility and understanding in order to find the appropriate ways out of this dilemma and contribute to the achievement of progress in the direction of the peaceful settlement.

There is also the initiative of His Majesty King Husayn, who is persistently continuing his efforts to avert disaster and who is still hopeful and optimistic that reason would prevail and that efforts would continue to achieve the peaceful settlement. Furthermore, there is also Mitterrand's initiative, the Algerian initiative, and, probably, new European initiatives. They all confirm that the possibility to achieve a political settlement is still there.

Continuing to beat the drums of war means, as King Husayn has said, walking into disaster. Then, history will be very harsh on those who have not tried their best to achieve the political settlement.

If the advocates of war succeed in giving priority to the military option and choose adventure over peace, Jordan has already prepared itself for any eventuality, and, as King Husayn has said, is very determined to prevent any violation of its airspace or territory by the Zionist entity or any of the parties of the U.S.- Atlantic alliance. [sentence as published] Put very clearly, this is Jordan's position, even if the Zionist entity was attacked.

Jordan would not be alone. If the Zionist enemy dares to try and violate the sanctity of our airspace and territory, the Arab nation would rush to side with it. Therefore, the Tel Aviv rulers must think twice before intervening in the Gulf conflict and before daring to provoke Jordan. They should also read carefully Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's statement in which he underlined clearly that "Syria will stand on the side of any Arab country that is subjected to Israeli aggression."

Anyhow, the doors of peace are not closed yet. The chances for a peaceful settlement are still available and everyone must try to avert disaster.

Battle With 'Imperialism, Colonialism' Welcomed

JN1101130091 Amman AL-RA'Y Arabic 11 Jan 91 pp 18

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Let Us Fight!!"]

[Text] This is a battle in the war that colonialism, Zionism, and Arab reactionaries have been waging against our nation since the turn of this century. The Geneva meeting was only a television show for which the Americans called in the name of peace to carry out war. Everybody expected this show and expected Tariq 'Aziz to make it a battle of wills, dignity, and manhood in which he will demonstrate that all the traitors of this nation who call him Tariq Hanna 'Aziz in view of the fact that his father is a Christian do not deserve to reach up to his boots.

Therefore, this is the battle, the battle whose occurence we never doubted for a single moment. If the Arabs who have forgotten that it represents the war that has been raging with imperialism, Zionism and Arab reactionaries for over a century, have to search for the trench in which they stand, our Arab nation is duty-bound to explicitly specify who are its enemies and accept the battle irrespective of the number of victims or the destruction. This humiliation in which we have been wallowing and which we have accepted in the oil era needs millions of martyrs to erase it and to make all the tyrannical, stealing, and reactionary forces respect us, our interests and our pan-Arab rights.

Which party in the United Nations decided to declare war on us? What alliance is this which has been mobilized in Hafar al-Batin? It consists of Zionism, imperialism, and international mercenaries; and the likes of Mohammad Ershad in whose house the Bangladeshis found $5 million in cash directly sent from Riyadh, not to mention the mercenaries who are on the oil countries' payroll, and the pilferers who visit Hafar al-Batin to submit bills of expenses, as well as their companies which are already making arrangements for repairing what the war destroys.

Who has invited the Americans and their allies to take up positions on their land and transform the Arabian Peninsula into a platform for dealing blows to the Arab nation and destroying its forces?

Those who invaded Hijaz in 1924 to strike the base of liberation and revolution in Mecca are the same ones who are preparing to attack the base of liberation and revolution in Baghdad, and they are the ones who stood to the side of Israel and Washington in 1967 to attack the base of liberation and revolution in Cairo.

As Arabs, we must assimilate the facts of the war that imperialism, Zionism, and the reactionaries wage against our nation. Is it conceivable that this great nation submits to the point of begging from a handful of Zionists, to the point of starvation, and to the point of being scorned by the world at large as a result of this imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance? Is it conceivable that Upper Volta and Zaire decide the fate of milions of Arabs at the United Nations? How would the United States dare to extend its hand to the Arabs wealth and to distribute it as it wishes and to plunder them as it wants had it not been for the reactionary forces which are planted in our homeland and which open their coffers with such impudence?

If this is the battle, then let it be. As a nation, we will only lose our shackles, our humiliation, and the disdain with which we are viewed. From the midst of the debris and from the midst of the fire the Arab nation will rise more pure than ever. Glory to the fighters who will fight for the sake of their nation's existence.

Japanese Party Leader Stops Over on Way to Iraq

OW1201035291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0334 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, Jan. 12 KYODO—Japanese opposition leader Takako Doi arrived here Saturday from Paris on her way to Iraq in a last-minute effort to help avert war in the Persian Gulf.

Doi, chairwoman of the Japan Socialist Party, the country's no. 1 opposition political party, is due to head for Baghdad later in the day for talks with President Saddam Husayn.

Doi, who left Tokyo on Wednesday, met with French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris on Thursday and is scheduled to return home on January 16.

French Medical Team Prepares Facilities in Amman

AU1101162891 Paris AFP in English 1607 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Paris, Jan 11 (AFP)—French group Medecins du Monde (Doctors of the World) called Friday for its volunteer doctors and nurses to be ready to leave for the Middle East to treat casualties resulting from a Gulf war.

The French group said it was preparing to set up emergency facilities, mostly in Jordan.

The medical teams would be made up of doctors from France, the United States, Poland and Lebanon, it said.

The volunteer doctors are scheduled to meet here Sunday with a Belgian medical researcher specialized in treatment of combat injuries and exposure to chemical weapons.

Interior Minister Gives Civil Defense Statement

NC1201153991 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Statement by Jordanian Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah following a meeting of the Civil Defense Higher Council in Amman on 12 January—recorded]

[Text] Since the start of the Gulf crisis, we have sensed that our country and the whole region are living in extraordinary circumstances. We are in a state of anticipation about what may occur if a confrontation takes place, regardless of whether it is be limited to the Gulf or whether it extends to the entire region. This situation requires us to consult our institutions and citizens to review the measures they should take to limit damage as far as possible.

The Civil Defense Higher Council has held several meetings since the Gulf crisis erupted, the most recent of which was today's meeting during which we reviewed the extent of our institutions' preparedness. At the previous meetings, we briefed our institutions and government departments on the tasks assigned them under certain circumstances. After several meetings, we reached the point where we were ready to examine their preparedness to perform their tasks and carry out communications among the civil defense groups on the level of the Civil Defense Higher Council and its operations room and the civil defense committees in the governorates and operations rooms in our official establishments and government departments.

We conducted a test of the preparedness of these establishments and the preparations they have made to deal with any emergency. The test revealed the existence of certain shortcomings which we will deal by instructing the civil defense groups and committees to avoid these mistakes. The assessment committee will discuss the test we carried out today and advise all civil defense departments in Amman and in the governorates of the necessary measures. In this regard, our citizens play a main role that runs parallel to that of the official institutions'. The institutions cannot act alone with citizens sitting idly by. Everyone knows what a citizen should do during confusion, abnormal situations, or disasters resulting from military operations.

In order to explain this issue further and to remind the citizens of their responsibilities, beginning tomorrow we will introduce programs giving instructions to citizens on the radio and television and publish this information in the newspapers. There may be some appeals, slogans, or seminars aimed at instructing and reminding citizens of their duties. The official departments will, we hope, carry out their duties fully if anything happens.

Protests Reported at al-'Aqabah Port 11 Jan

NC1101193491 Paris AFP in English 1909 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, Jan 11 (AFP)—Hundreds of Jordanians demonstrated Friday in support of Iraq in the southern port city of al-'Aqabah, 350 kilometers (217 miles) from here, organizers said.

The demonstrators brandished photos of King Husayn and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and waved Jordanian, Iraqi and Palestinian flags, said Ahmad al-Yamani, who heads a popular committee of support for Iraq.

Jordan backed Iraq after Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2 and Jordanians, many of them of Palestinian origin, have expressed their support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in his showdown with a U.S.-led coalition massed against him in the Gulf.

Further on 11 Jan Junblatt Resignation Speech

Criticizes Gulf Buildup

NC1101162691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Speech by Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt at a ceremony to introduce a book on Kamal Junblatt at the National Library in B'aqlin on 11 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] First, I thank the National Information Center for this modest book, which revives glorious Arab and Lebanese memories and the golden past, which perhaps we should recall today because the future looks black. It is the past of the Lebanese and Arab nationalist movements at the peak of their power and glory at the time of Kamal Junblatt and Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. [passage omitted]

If we look to the future, particularly at this massive buildup of imperialist armies, we see those who are using the occupation of Kuwait as a pretext for destroying the army or Iraq and for striking at the Iraqi land, people, establishments, army, and revolution. It is a direct colonialization of the Arab lands, but nobody is talking about it. Of course, as we know, Saddam will not back off. We believe that we need to be inspired by this past so that we can stand in one line from Palestine to Iraq, including Lebanon and Syria, in the face of these foreign armies.

Truly, we want relations with the West because this relationshp must exist. But we want a relationship of equals. We hate this colonial West, as represented by the image of this U.S. cowboy soldier who is now present in the holy lands or in other lands, who only came to scorch the earth. [passage omitted]

Now that the government has won the vote of confidence, I wish Mr. 'Umar Karami all the best. I made a point of waiting until now so that my position would not be linked to that of the other party—the Lebanese Forces. I announce my resignation and withdrawal from this government. The various departments of the [Progressive Socialist] Party will stay to defend the freedoms and just causes through the available channels, such as the media and the press. For private reasons, I will stay out of the political scene for the time being, but the Party will stay. On this occasion, let me also say that we have heard that the list containing the names of the deputies to be appointed is ready and complete. Let me draw the attention of those who are working on the lists to the fact that Kamal Junblatt's seat cannot be filled by any appointee. [applause] Kamal Junblatt's seat must be chosen by the people in a free election, when circumstances permit. So I hope that the parties concerned will not make the mistake of appointing someone, whoever it is, in the place of Kamal Junblatt. Let us wait, and let the seat remain vacant until we have a free election, one in which there is a minimum of freedom, under a single constituency from 'Akkar to the South, and in which political sectarianism is abolished.

As I have already stated, I wish Mr. 'Umar Karmi and his colleagues all the best to reach peace and stability. If we can assist from afar, we will do so, because we are not warmongers. We want peace, and we want to get out of this cycle of violence and build Lebanon on peaceful grounds and to establish a new order. So good luck to them. Thank you. [applause]

Al-Hirawi, Karami React

NC1201073791 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Excerpts] The government of reconciliation and accord continues to discharge its duties, pressing ahead with its policy statement's implementation and seeking to consolidate unity within the government. President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said that he is definitely going to reject the resignation of Minister Walid Junblatt. Prime Minister 'Umar Karami also expressed the same view. [passage omitted]

President Ilyas al-Hirawi said that next week the cabinet will instruct the Army command to remove all hindrances weakening the implementation of Greater Beirut plan. Al-Hirawi called on citizens to cooperate with the authorities in maintaining law and order. [passage omitted]

Gas Masks Distributed to Syrian Forces

NC1301181191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] The Syrian Forces Command in Lebanon has distributed gas masks to its forces operating in the areas adjacent to the border strip in western al-Biqa'.

UNIFIL Command Issues Personnel Gas Masks

NC1101164191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] The command of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] in the South has received gas masks to distribute to its 6,000 personnel. It has been learned that the families of 200 civlian employees working with the international force in the South and in Israel will leave for home.

Fadlallah Comments on South, Gulf Situation

NC1201121291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah believes that the freezing of the Damascus agreement [between the Amal Movement and Hizballah] and the suspension of the [Lebanese] army's entry in the south has been brought about through American-Israeli coordination. He said the Americans are against Israel's withdrawal from the occupied border strip before the Middle East crisis is resolved. He noted that Israel is trying to dominate the whole region politically and economically if it cannot dominate it geographically.

He said the arch-Satan America's policy seeks to silence any area that challenges Israel. Therefore, he added, it did not lift a finger when Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza, and Golan, and then south Lebanon.

Commenting on the Gulf, Fadlallah said that chances of peace in the Gulf are greater than the chances of war because those who are massing their forces will lose more. Thus, he added, they are now engaged in a political and security game so that they will lose nothing, but we must work to make them lose more.

Al-Asad Message Appeals to Saddam to Withdraw

NC1201172291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jan 91

["Text" of message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn—read by announcer]

[Text] Mr. President Saddam Husayn, president of the Iraqi Republic:

With pure brotherly and sincere patriotic feelings and from the premise of understanding the imminent danger to the Arab homeland in general and fraternal Iraq in particular, I send you this message over the radio out of my desire to spare the nation and Iraq the grave consequences that may befall them. I am very hopeful that my message will be received by you with an understanding of my motives and that it will meet with the desired response.

At this critical time for the Arab homeland—which the masses of our nation and all peoples and governments are monitoring and following very closely and with deep concern—I can find no better way to address you than to underline the ties of fraternity that bind our peoples in Syria and Iraq and to stress my conviction that the constant concern of our two fraternal countries must be to focus on confronting the challenges and dangers facing the Arab nation.

I decided to address this message to you despite several years of differences in views and less than cordial relations, hoping that these views and relations will develop into what is good and more useful for our two countries and our nation. What we are facing makes it incumbent that we be frank and exchange views. Any harm that befalls Iraq will in the end harm Syria and the Arab nation in one way or another.

When we see Iraq facing a serious danger as is now the case, then differences between two fraternal countries diminish and disappear because what unites us is greater and more important than any temporary differences and gains that may appear before us—that is if it is true to say that we are expecting any gains.

A recognition of the gravity of the danger compels one to speak frankly, as is required by brotherly and pan-Arab ties. I hasten to express at the start, however, my hope that my words will not be taken to mean that I want to embarrass anyone. All my concern is to address the consciences and my objective is to let the minds and feelings interact and to have ideas and actions achieve the supreme pan-Arab interest and deny an opportunity to the enemies of our nation. They could not have dreamed of a better opportunity, particularly as it comes their way as a result of our own action and decision. Hence we must remove this opportunity completely through our action and decision, not because we are forced to do so by or out of fear of someone but on the basis of our belief in the need for this action and this decision. This is the role of courageous Iraq at this time. Thus, we must not allow the enemies of the nation to reap any gain by exploiting this opportunity.

If an Arab is living through circumstances which he believes to be sensitive, this should not prevent him from listening to his brother who is concerned for him. The Arab nation's interests are our concern and so are Iraq's, because we are both part of the Arab nation. Thus, because of our shared views stemming from our common history, heritage, civilization, language, spiritual values, pains, hopes, and fate, and in everything entailed by our affiliation to the Arab nation—from whose land the divine messages originated and whose contributions to thought, culture, and values have been a source of amazement to the world—partnership in word and deed in what we are facing is our right and duty. It is a brother's duty to express his views to his brother, who in turn is dutybound to listen to his brother's views with the utmost interest and with an open mind, because both share the same fate. He who listens to his brother's view will not lose or be disappointed.

As I emphasize the serious danger confronting the nation in general and Iraq in particular and call for denying an opportunity to the enemies, I am not discussing here the right or the wrong of Iraq's occupation [ijtiyah] of Kuwait. This is another issue, and this is not the time or the place to discuss it. What counts now is the dangerous and serious situation threatening Iraq. Our concern for Iraq—its land, people, and army—is the same as our concern for ourselves, because Iraq is a dear and precious part of the Arab land and nation.

The party that benefits from the current situation is Israel which occupies Arab land and is planning and working to continue its expansion on Arab land; it is Irael that benefits from the current international situation and Arab contradictions. The Arabs, collectively and individually, and Iraq foremost among them, are the losers. I can see that the interests of no Arab party or of Iraq are served by what is currently taking place. The Arab nation's basic interests, particularly at this historic stage, lie in genuine cohesion and solidarity and in every Arab country's securing reassurance for any other Arab country, even if they have differences on one or more Arab issues.

I do not want to believe that the feelings of Arabs about the unity of destiny have evaporated or that Arab solidarity has become impossible. I want to stress that fearful danger will consolidate the feelings about the unity of destiny and prompt action to achieve solidarity and solve Arab differences through dialogue and not compulsion. I want to underline in particular that the responsibility of Iraq, Syria, and other Arab countries is to help provide reassurance and feelings of security for neighboring Arab countries even if differences arise occasionally, because these differences can be settled through dialogue and in such way as to consolidate confidence among ourselves and remove fear. This would deepen the spirit of fraternity and achieve effective Arab solidarity, and it constitutes an important step on the path toward future Arab unity achieved through conviction and faith that the nation's slavation lies in its unity.

The future is open for us to unify the entire Arab nation. Our nation, which is great with its tremendous inherent capabilities, message, and heritage, is capable of offering the world and of providing for itself—as it did in the past—spiritual, ideological, and cultural light that enriched mankind.

Mr. President Saddam Husayn: The current difficult, complicated, and dangerous situation in the Arab homeland was caused by Iraq's entry to Kuwait, its forcible annexation of Kuwait, and its elimination of the presence of Kuwait as an independent state and a member of the Arab League and the United Nations. We believe that this is an illegitimate act on the part of Iraq and one which it had no right to carry it out, even from an unilateral point of view. This is because the method of force and violence is not a sound and appropriate means to achieve unity. It is rather an obstruction of any move toward unity.

Therefore, let Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait be a prelude to the creation of a new atmosphere in which the serious dangers will evaporate and in which we will stand in one rank and as one force in the face of everything threatening our land, interests, dignity, and fate.

Some may claim that Iraq will be the target of an attack even if it withdraws from Kuwait. I would like to stress in this regard our unequivocal brotherly pledge that if such an event were to occur after a withdrawal from Kuwait, Syria will stand with all its moral and material capabilities at the side of Iraq in one trench, and we will fight together with all our strength and fortitude until victory is achieved.

Mr. President Saddam Husayn, the nation's interest must be placed above any other consideration and for this every sacrifice becomes small. The danger can be confronted through a sound decision and stand, and this is what we expect of you. Any decision that you may adopt now to defuse the crisis and to spare Iraq and the Arab homeland the dangers of a destructive war will be recorded for you as the right and brave thing to have done.

We implore God to lead us on the right way. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Jordan's King Telephones on Message

NC1201192491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1910 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 12 Jan (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call tonight from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. Discussions during the contact dealt with the president's message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and with developments in the region.

Papers Comment on Appeal

NC1301082991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, AL-BA'TH newspaper discusses President Hafiz al-Asad's historical radio message to the Iraqi president. It says that this nationalist voice which Damascus addressed to Baghdad through leader al-Asad represents the nation's conscience, the pulse of its sentiment, and an expression of the feelings of every sincere Arab from the ocean to the Gulf. The paper emphasizes that the hope and sense of pan-Arab and human responsibility, which that genuine and sincere voice carried, emanate from the joint Arab destiny and the same Arab future. AL-BA'TH says: Any good that comes to part of the nation is beneficial to the entire nation, and any harm inflicted on any part of it is bound to harm all its parts. True and bold stands appear now during imminent danger and difficult circumstances.

President Hafiz al-Asad's initiative opens the door to the brothers in Iraq to move toward defusing the powder keg in the Gulf and in the region so as to dash the dreams of those who harbor evils for the Arab nation. The paper concludes by saying: The brothers in Iraq must read what leader al-Asad said—We are in one trench and on one front, hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder if he [Saddam] responds to the appeals of the entire world. Leader al-Asad's words have always been absolutely credible. When he makes a vow and a personal pledge, it is a covenant binding on Syria and we believe that it is also obligates every sincere Arab. Leader al-Asad has meant every word he uttered and he has always honored his pledge.

In an editorial headlined "The call of heart, reason and duty," TISHRIN says: Once again, leader al-Asad rises above the wounds and transcends many years of deteriorating differences and relations, addressing the Iraqi president in the language of reason, heart, and pan-Arab responsibility, asserting the concern of Syria and the Arabs for Iraq as a people, army, and fraternal country. Once again, leader al-Asad dots the i's, warning of the grave dangers hovering over our people in Iraq and in the greater Arab homeland as a result of his continued annexation of Kuwait by force.

TISHRIN adds: The leader's open message to the Iraqi president bore the Arabs' feelings, conveyed their concerns, and translated their will to try to keep from the enemies the opportunity to strike at Iraq, especially because Israel is the only beneficiary of the current situation and the Arab nation is the only loser. The nation's interest lies in cohesion and solidarity, not in estrangement and fighting.

The paper notes: The higher Arab interest and Iraq's interest in particular, dictated leader al-Asad's frank message. Unity of destiny, partnership in everything, and the duty of sincere brotherhood bring Iraq and Syria together and are more important than all differences and sensitivities.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: It is the call of heart, reason, and pan-Arab responsibility. Will the Iraqi president heed it, respond to the call, and spare Iraq and the nation the dangers of a destructive war?

AL-THAWRAH says in an editorial headlined "Baghdad and the bold decision": From the first moment of Iraq's invasion of its fraternal neighbor Kuwait, Syria rushed to deal with the new situation, out of concern for the the two brotherly states and the Arab interst in general. Syrian efforts assumed various forms in Arab and international arenas. These efforts began with the leader's call for an emergency meeting of the Arab countries' leaders. Along with all sincere Arab and international efforts, they continued over more than five months with the aim of reaching a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, without any foreign effects or interventions.

The paper concludes: President Hafiz al-Asad's appeal to the Iraqi president and people at this difficult time wants Iraq to respond to the call of nation and Arab destiny with a bold decision that would defuse the war and save Iraq and the region from destruction. The appeal also urges him to resolve differences through dialogue, not force. The road of unity is open and in it lies the nation's salvation and power. The winner is the one who responds to the will of his nation and people.

TISHRIN Views Rejection

NC1401100691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 14 Jan (SANA)—TISHRIN writes in its editorial today that the Iraqi regime has squandered the opportunity provided by President Hafiz al-Asad's pan-Arab fraternal message in which he invoked logic and reason to save Iraq from catastrophe.

It adds that personal ambitions have prevented the imminent danger to the region from being perceived. Personal ambitions have also prevented the perception of the consequences and damage arising from the policy of recklessness, aggression, and invasion, which will bring disaster to Iraq before any other country. It says: The Iraqi regime has turned a deaf ear and only sees what suits its view and narrow personal interests. How else can we explain Saddam's rejection of the hand of salvation that President Hafiz al-Asad has extended? How else can we explain the hysterical response to Syria's efforts and endeavors to save Iraq?

The paper notes that this intransigence is nothing new for the Iraqi regime, which rejected the Syrian Arab unionist effort in 1978 and persisted in its scheming to weaken the Arab nation and threaten its existence and future. It goes on to say that the Iraqi regime bears the sole responsibility for pushing the Iraqi people and resources to catastrophe. It is turning a blind eye in a stubborn way to all the harmful consequences and grave dangers that have befallen the Arab nation as a result of its occupation of Kuwait and its refusal to withdraw. It bears the responsibility for putting Iraq in the furnace of a destructive war. The answer to the question of what happens next is in the hands of our people in Iraq, who will not remain silent over the reckless policy that is pushing Iraq toward the catastrophe, no matter how long it takes.

U.S. Secretary of State Visits Damascus

Al-Asad, Baker Meeting

NC1201155991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at 1615 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the U.S. ambassador to Damascus.

Baker arrived in Damascus at 1500 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Baker, al-Shar' News Conference

NC1201223691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2145 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 12 Jan (SANA)—Secretary of State James Baker and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held a news conference this evening at Damascus International Airport. It was attended by a large number of reporters from Arab and foreign news agencies and international television stations, the press delegation accompanying Baker, and Syrian media representatives.

At the beginning of the conference, Baker said: I had the honor of meeting President Hafiz al-Asad and, in the presence of Faruq al- Shar, we discussed in detail the situation in the Gulf, the situation in Lebanon, and the peace process in the Middle East after the conclusion of the Gulf crisis. He added: I gave President Hafiz al-Asad a full briefing on the talks I held with the Iraqi foreign minister in Geneva. I also briefed his excellency on the way in which the United States will deal with the situation in the Gulf.

Replying to a question on the possibility of Israel's intervention in the Gulf crisis, Faruq al-Shar' said that Syria will not accept any Israeli intervention in the crisis and that if Israel commits aggression against Jordan or any other Arab country, then Syria will stand with Jordan and any other Arab country that is subjected to Israeli aggression.

Replying to a question on the Syrian stand in case of an Israeli retaliation if it comes under Iraqi missiles, Faruq al-Shar' said that Israel must not intervene in this crisis. He expressed his belief that if there is a provocation against Israel, then its aim would be to shuffle the political cards in the region. Israel must not retaliate in such a case.

Answering a question on the hopes attached to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's visit to Baghdad, Baker said that he wishes him success in his mission to reach a peaceful solution for the crisis. He added that the peace road is open but it starts from Baghdad, that the deadline is a serious one, and that Perez de Cuellar will insist on the complete implementation of the UN resolutions.

Replying to a question about the Syrian forces' readiness to enter into offensive operations after the deadline, Faruq al-Shar' said: Up to this minute, the Syrian forces in Saudi Arabia are there for defensive purposes. We are consulting with our brothers in the Gulf and hope to reach a peaceful settlement to the crisis before the deadline.

Answering a question on his assessment of Syria's role in finding a peaceful solution to the crisis, Baker said that Syria condemned the invasion from the first moment and sent forces to defend Saudi Arabia. It also participated in the international consensus and supported the UN resolutions.

Responding to a question about Syria's support for terrorism, Baker said that he had held talks on this issue during his earlier visit and during this visit and that talks between the U.S. and Syrian Governments will continue.

Replying to a question on Syria's stand if the international alliance crosses Kuwait's borders during its military operations, Faruq al-Shar' said that Syria is committed to the Arab and international resolutions. It hopes that Iraq will respond and withdraw from Kuwait before 15 January. He added: We hope that Iraq will respond in particular to President Hafiz al-Asad's message to President Saddam Husayn.

Answering a question on how he expects a positive Iraqi response to President al-Asad's message in view of the dispute that has lasted more than eight years during Iraq's war with Iran, Faruq al- Shar's said: One must not completely lose hope.

Baker Departs

NC1201192291 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1912 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 12 Jan (SANA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Damascus this evening following a short visit to the Arab Republic of Syria.

He was seen off at Damascus airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', the head of the Foreign Ministry's protocol department, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Information Minister Calls for Iraqi Withdrawal

NC1401121191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1142 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Dubayy, 14 Jan (SANA)—Information Minister Muhammad Salman stressed the need for the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of legitimacy in order to spare the region the catastrophes of war and destruction.

In an interview published by the United Arab Emirates paper AL-BAYAN, he said that the occupation of Kuwait has given Israel an excuse to hold onto its occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. He added that the current situation in the Gulf is grave and called for joint Arab action to tackle the situation, noting the Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi coordination.

Salman stressed that implementation of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait is necessary because it would allow the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Palestinian issue and the holding of an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Further on Statement

NC1401120591 Paris AFP in English 1135 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 14 (AFP)—The United States cannot back down on its demand for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, a Syrian minister was quoted as saying here Monday, as Baghdad said it was ready for an imminent war in the Gulf.

"The U.S administration cannot back away now after what it has done on the international level. A retreat will affect its future," Information Minister Muhammad Salman told the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al-Bayan.

Mr. Salman said Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait would help resolve the Palestinian issue because the August 2 invasion had given Israel a pretext to hold onto occupied Arab territories.

"Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait has become necessary because it will lead to implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions" on the Palestinian issue, he said.

Baghdad has linked any solution to the Gulf crisis to a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The demand has been rejected by the United States and its Western and Arab allies, including Syria and Egypt.

Iraqi official newspapers, on the eve of the Security Council's deadline for a pull-out from Kuwait, said Monday that the country was ready for an imminent war with the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf.

Al-Shar', Turkish Official Meet, Discuss Gulf

JN1101101591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received this morning Mr. (Togay Ozshiri), secretary general of the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; Muhammad Khadr, director of the Western Europe Desk at the Foreign Ministry; Mr.

(Limaz Onaydin), director general of the Middle East and Africa Department at the Turkish Foreign Ministry; and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus.

Talks during the meeting centered on bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

Turkish Official Departs

JN1101101891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] (Togay Ozshiri), secretary general of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, left Damascus this afternoon following talks with Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs, on bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the latest developments of the Gulf crisis.

Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and his wife, the Turkish ambassador in Damascus, and the Embassy staff saw off (Ozshiri) and his wife.

Al-Shar' Meets Argentine Envoy, UN's Goulding

NC1201125891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received 'Umar Bakir, personal envoy of Argentine President Carlos Menem, this morning. Bilateral relations, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and developments in the region were discussed during the meeting.

Minister al-Shar' also received UN Under Secretary General for Political Affairs Marrack Goulding. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah, chairman of the Syrian Arab delegation to the joint truce commission; and Dr. Majdi al-Jazzar of the organizations department.

The meeting focused on the situation in Lebanon and the role of UN Interim Force in Lebanon. Goulding expressed his satisfaction with the progress achieved so far in the national accord march in Lebanon in implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. He stressed the need for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425 on Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon.

Khaddam, UN's Goulding Discuss Region, Lebanon

NC1201165991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1542 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 12 Jan (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received UN Assistant Secretary General Marrack Goulding at 1330 this afternoon. Major General 'Anan Tayyarah, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the joint armistice commission, also attended the meeting.

The discussions during the meeting focused on the situation in the Middle East and south Lebanon.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

NC1201170591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Jan 91 p 17

[Text] Damascus, QNA [QATARI NEWS AGENCY]—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal yesterday arrived in Damascus on a visit to the Syrian capital, the duration of which has not been specified.

UAE Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 13 Jan

NC1301125491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, United Arab Emirates [UAE] foreign minister, arrived in Damascus at 1300 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the heads of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments, and the UAE ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

At 1345, President Hafiz al-Asad received Rashid 'Abdallah al- Nu'aymi, United Arab Emirartes [UAE] foreign minister. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was present.

President Receives UAE Minister

NC1301130891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Rashid 'Abdallah al- Nu'aymi, United Arab Emirartes [UAE] foreign minister at 1345 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was present.

Romanian Foreign Minister on talks, Gulf Crisis

NC1301125691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0959 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 13 Jan (SANA)—Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase has described President Hafiz al-Asad as a great statesman with a strong personality and piercing vision in politics, who knows much about our country and about developments in it and who also knows the situation in the region very well, especially in the Gulf.

In an interview with TISHRIN newspaper published here today, he said: I was very proud to meet with this great personality, who is important on Arab and international levels.

Nastase described his talks with the Syrian officials during his recent visit to Syria as distinguished and auspicious, and expressed his belief that his visit to Damascus will be a landmark in promoting bilateral relations of mutual interest.

Commenting on the Gulf crisis, he said: We have always supported the Security Council resolutions, rejected the continuation of the crisis and the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and hoped for a peaceful solution that will spare humanity from a destructive catastrophe. He noted that he had sensed an identity of views on this issue during his talks with the Syrian officials.

Speaking about the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said: Our stance is clear and known. It [the conflict] cannot be linked in any way to the Gulf crisis and there is no connection between the two.

He added that it is important to discuss this issue in the near future within the framework of an international conference. At the United nations recently we voted in favor of the recent resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue.

[Words indistinct] against the Palestinian Arab people at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces, he said his country strongly rejects the policy of violence adopted inside the occupied Arab territories. He expressed his hope that Israel will observe the Security Council resolutions and refrain from using horrible methods against Arab children and citizens.

On the (?influx) of more immigrants from various countries to occupied Palestine, he pointed out that there are approximately 20,000 Jews in Romania. He said: We have no intention of making them emigrate, especially because Romania has not concluded any deal or made a commitment of this kind with Israel, nor has Romania contributed to the deals of the Jews' air transportation.

Commenting on his visit to the liberated city of al-Qunaytirah, he said: What we saw in this city is the symbol of criminal experience and one of the pictures of a devastating war. The signs of brutal acts are evident in the city, which many world politicians should (?witness) first hand to see the death, destruction, and ugliness of violence.

Lebanese Prime Minister Arrives 14 Jan

NC1401091191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0841 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 14 Jan (SANA)—Mr. 'Umar Karami, prime minister of the Republic of Lebanon, arrived in Damascus this morning from Tripoli on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi led the reception party at the Damascus northern entrance. After shaking hands with the deputy prime minister and the ministers, Karami and al-Zu'bi went toward the dais while the national anthems of both countries were played. Afterward, they inspected the honor guards.

Al-Zu'bi and Karami went to the cabinet offices in an official motorcade.

Bangladesh

Troops in Saudi Arabia 'for Defense' Only

BK1301132891 Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] The government has already sent a guideline to all its nationals in the Gulf region about the safety and security of Bangladeshis in the areas vulnerable to war. This was stated by Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan while talking to newsmen in Dhaka Saturday. He said the guidline mainly concerns with the security of our people in the region and presence of Bangladeshi troops in Saudi Arabia.

The foreign secretary made it clear Bangladeshi troops were sent to Saudi Arabia at the specific request of the Government of the Kingdom to use it for defense purpose only. Our troops will never be used for other purposes than defense. About 40,000 Bangladeshis are living in different countries around the Gulf region.

India

Delhi Radio Says No Evacuation if War Erupts

BK1401083291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, has said that there will be no evacuation of Indians from the Gulf region if war breaks out. Participating in the current affairs discussion broadcast last night on All India Radio, he said steps have been taken to ensure safety and security of all Indians within the countries they are living. Indian nationals have been advised to help in stocking food, medicines, and other essential commodities in full cooperation with the local government. Mr. Dubey said if the United Nations decides to constitute a peacekeeping force for the region it will be on a massive scale and India will be willing to participate in it.

AFP Reports Planned Airlift

BK1201160591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 12 (AFP)—India will airlift some 1,600 of its nationals from the Gulf region before Monday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

An Air India spokesman was quoted by PTI as saying in Bombay that airlines would operate four additional Boeing 747 flights to Doha and Dhahran to bring home the 1,600.

Air India would continue its flights to the Gulf as long as safety permitted, the spokesman in the Western business city reportedly said.

PTI said the Indian pilots guild had threatened to discontinue flights to the Gulf from midnight Monday, but the plan was rejected by Air India management.

Indian officials have permitted Air India to operate flights to the Gulf without paying a war risk premium, the agency said in the dispatch from Bombay. It did not quote any sources.

All Employees in Kuwait, Basra Missions Evacuated

BK1301145691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] All the employees of the Indian Embassy in Kuwait and the Indian Consulate in Basra have been evacuated. The Indian Embassy in Baghdad is now functioning with three diplomats and four other employees only.

Army Chief Wants Insulation From Domestic Unrest

BK1301100891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] The chief of the army staff, General S.F. Rodriguez, has indicated that the army will soon open its doors to women. The adjutant general of the Army Headquarters is examining the modalities for this purpose. In an exclusive interview to the armed forces weekly SAINIK SAMACHAR, the army chief said induction of women into the armed forces is long overdue. The participation of women in the Army has been confined to the medical services till now.

General Rodriguez also announced the formation of an army training command. At present there are five operational commands in the Army. The creation of the new command is aimed at institutionalizing training process in the Army and optimizing the use of existing resources.

General Rodriguez said the Army should be completely insulated from the internal security commitments and be deployed for the purpose only as a last resort.

On welfare measures, the army chief said the authorities are seized of the serious problems of shortage of family accommodation and a comprehensive study is underway to get over it.

Army Day falls on the 15th of January.

Iran

Grand 'Fajr' Military Exercises Begin 12 Jan

LD1301204291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Communique No. 1 of the General Command Headquarters on the beginning of the preliminary stages of the Fajr maneuver was published today. In that communique it is stated: In compliance with the command of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the preliminary stages of the grand Fajr maneuver have began. Meanwhile, combat and combat-logistics battalions—as well as all logistics services—are being moved to and stationed at pre- determined points to continue the maneuver.

According to the said communique, the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, as well as the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Basij [mobilization corps] began the performance of their preliminary exercises at brigade and division level on 22d Dey [12 January]. These forces are now engaged in organizing exercises by infantry and armored divisions with air support as well as support by all kinds of artillery and missiles. They are thus preparing themselves for the performance of the final stage of the grand Fajr maneuver.

Purpose 'Combat Readiness'

LD1301205191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] For the purposes of maintaining necessary readiness in the face of foreign forces' aggression in the Persian Gulf region, airborne maneuvers by three Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] Armed Forces Air Force C-130 planes and the airdrop of operational forces equipment and performance of air assaults, started today in the general region of Siahku with the participation of special forces of the Infantry Academy of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps [IRGC] and Chinook helicopters from the IRI's Armed Forces Air Force.

The purpose of these maneuvers, which will continue for 10 days, has been announced to be the combat readiness of the special forces of the IRGC in the face of likely enemy attacks, performance of air assaults in taking the bases of the joint aggressive enemy, and the cooperation between the IRI Armed Forces Air force and the special forces of the IRGC, so that special tactics and operational techniques are put to practice.

AFP Reports Border Maneuvers

NC1301124691 Paris AFP in English 1235 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan 13 (AFP)—Iranian armed forces and Revolutionary Guards troops Sunday began military maneuvers along the border with Iraq which officials here said were linked to the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf.

The acting commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Guards, Rahim Safavi, said last Monday that the maneuvers were "directly linked to the presence of foreign forces" in the region.

He said Iraq had been notified about the maneuvers.

Official Tehran Radio, citing an army communique, said that the initial phase of the maneuvers had begun on Saturday with the deployment of all the forces participating in the exercises.

The military operations come two days before a United Nations deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait—which it invaded on August 2—or face war from a U.S.-led multinational force massed in the Gulf.

Codenamed "Fajr" (dawn), the exercises will be conducted for a month over a 15,000 square kilometer (5,791 square mile) area in the border provinces of Bakhtaran, Ilam and Khuzestan.

Military officials said surface-to-air SA-2 and SA-6 missiles as well as other weapons produced in Iran or purchased abroad at the end of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war—which ended with a cease-fire in August 1988—would be used in the exercises.

Iran has condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and criticised the foreign military buildup in the region, but it has stressed it would remain neutral in the event of war.

On Saturday the decision-making Supreme National Security Council voiced its "grave concern" over the possible outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf and called for renewed efforts to try to avert a conflict.

Security Council Meets; Discusses Gulf Situation

LD1201174191 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council held a session this evening chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by all members, advisors, and high-ranking military commanders. In this session, the outcome of the Iraqi delegation's visit to Iran, the latest situation in the region, and the results of the political negotiations and activities in regard to the growing combat preparedness in the Persian Gulf region were analyzed in detail. The grave impact and consequences of the current situation were examined.

In this session, it was reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran regards the consequences of a military clash as extremely worrying and believes that all-round efforts should be made to end the occupation of Kuwait, avert a military clash, and end the presence of the foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region.

Tanker Crews Spot Drifting Mines in Gulf Waters

LD1201151991 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Busher, Jan. 12, IRNA—The crew aboard Iranian oil tankers have spotted nearly 200 mines drifting in the Persian Gulf waters over the past four days, IRNA correspondent reported today quoting reliable military sources.

The report cautioned that Iran's off-shore oil drills and vessels were being threatened by the drifting mines identified by military experts as being of the type of floating mines with high explosive power. Since a U.S.-led multinational force was formed in the Persian Gulf to force

Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, several cases have been reported of mines striking ships and oil installations.

Commentary Discusses Perez de Cuellar Iraqi Visit

LD1201130191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1052 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to you, dear listeners. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Baghdad today to initiate a new round of diplomatic activities to solve the Kuwaiti crisis.

The visit of Perez de Cuellar to Baghdad, which was planned previously with the possibility of the failure of Geneva talks between U.S. and Iraqi foreign ministers in mind, is an effort to prevent the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf. It seems, however, a remote possibility for the UN secretary general to achieve speedily the desired result in that mission—a mission the duration of which is not determined.

In the Jordanian capital of Amman, where he stayed last night, Perez de Cuellar said that he had no specific plan for the prevention of war in the Persian Gulf. But other sources have talked of the existence of a five-article peace plan by the secretary general as well as the stationing of UN peacekeeping forces in the region. [passage omitted]

The UN secretary general's mission in Baghdad thus has two objectives. One is to remind the president of Iraq of the international community's determination for that country to leave Kuwait. The other is to pave the ground for subsequent contacts between Washington and Baghdad and to prevent the differences between the two countries to escalate.

Since during the past few days Perez de Cuellar has had numerous consultations with the United States, the EC, and specifically with France, his visit to Baghdad cannot be regarded as an emphasis on the use of force against aggression. That is specifically so because it seems that the previous solidarity among the ranks of the forces united against Iraq no longer exists. Thus, in case of war breaking out the United States will be forced to shoulder the burden on her own.

In the view of some experts, if the failure of Geneva talks, the responsibility for which has been placed on Iraq by Washington, leads the United States to assess the decision to go to war decisively, then Baghdad will pay attention to the deliberations in the U.S. Congress with more sensitivity; it will no longer regard those deliberations as a propaganda war to bring psychological pressure on itself. If the Congress arrives at the decision that war is the last resort, then Baghdad will prepare itself to receive a military blow.

On the other hand, it must be considered that the public opinion in the United States is not yet ready to accept the negative consequences of a military encounter in the Persian Gulf. That issue provides Baghdad with an opportunity to continue to insist on its previous positions in an effort to dilute the previous sensitivity against the fact of aggression on Kuwait. Thus, Baghdad will swing the issue of aggression against Kuwait to look more like a matter for compromise or a mediation mission on the part of the secretary general. In other words, it will try to apply to the aggression against Kuwait the principle of statute of limitations. It seems the warm welcome given to the secretary general in Baghdad is in line with that policy.

Paper Urges Support of Mission

LD1201103391 Tehran IRNA in English 0753 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—With almost all other venues exhausted in trying to find a compromise solution to the U.S.-Iraq standoff, U.N. intervention at this crucial juncture is the only hope and may be the last opportunity for peace before mid-January, said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Saturday.

Referring to U.N. chief Perez de Cuellar's Baghad visit today, the English daily believed, "it could turn out to be the most respectable and timely intervention if it diminishes the prospect of armed confrontation."

However, it quoted Perez de Cuellar as believing that "his mission is not very promising because he doubts he can persuade President Saddam to start withdrawing by January 15... The Peruvian diplomat is no newcomer to the strategic region. He is respected for his sincere efforts to end the Iran-Iraq conflict and is seen by many U.N. observers as a man who is capable of influencing the present atmosphere in a way that will reduce the authority of the January 15 deadline."

Perez de Cuellar's meeting with Saddam "might as well remove the fear that war is inevitable," the paper said urging world leaders and the international community "to declare their full support for the chance to secure peace—the venue now undertaken by the U.N. leader."

"To spare the world another catastrophe, all those who have influence in Baghdad and Washington must use it to the maximum and as a matter of urgency."

The paper in conclusion said, "by backing this mission and exploring remaining ones world public opinion must also take into consideration that January 15 is not divine. A resolution can be reached after that date if, of course, there is a strong will and commitment to bring about just, lasting and comprehensive peace throughout the Middle East."

Tehran Radio Assesses U.S. Congress Gulf Vote

LD1301163891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1108 GMT 13 Jan 91

["Political commentary"]

[Text] Following three days of argument, the U.S. Congress yesterday delivered its decisionmaking authority on war to the President. Passing a resolution, the Congress gave George Bush the authority to use military force against Iraq if it does not withdraw from Kuwaiti territory by the Security Council deadline.

Despite disagreements in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, the approval of such a resolution was not surprising, as the failure of talks between the U.S. and Iraqi foreign ministers in Geneva and the frustration of other mediation efforts had made it intolerable for the U.S. governing body to see differences between the President and the Congress.

Apart from securing the legitimate decisionmaking right of the U.S. President regarding deployment of U.S. military forces against Iraq, the resolution can also be seen as a kind of victory for Bush with regard to the Congress' objections.

The Congress' resolution, which was issued at a time of military exercises in the Persian Gulf, can be seen as an introduction to war. This is at a time when hopes of finding a peaceful resolution to the Persian Gulf crisis are still alive.

The visit of the UN secretary general to Baghdad, as well as the antiwar demonstrations of thousands of people in Europe and America, are only a part of the open efforts to avert a destructive war. The UN secretary general has been in Iraq since yesterday, following the failure of the Geneva talks, when only a few days are left to the announced deadline.

With the support of the EEC and the Soviet Union, he is the only international figure who can be expected to persuade Iraq to leave Kuwait and resolve the deadlock in the crisis.

Even though the success of the secretary general would be an ideal situation, there is concern about his failure and the increasing threat of war.

Now the question is: Having gained the approval of Congress, would the U.S. President attack Iraq immediately after the 15 January deadline?

From the U.S. viewpoint, military action requires three preconditions of being rational, economical, and moral: being rational in the context of deploying U.S. forces where vital U.S. interests are threatened; being economic, which has a meaning beyond military expenditure and covers a collection of political and economic changes in the region and worldwide; and being moral within the context of the level of public support and acceptability of military action in the world.

The Persian Gulf, in the view of the U.S. governing body, is a region of vital U.S. interests, and the governing body sees no problems in this regard. But it seems that some ambiguity exists about [military action] being economical and moral.

Despite the condemnation of aggression and the 12 Security Council resolutions at hand, doubts still exist in public opinion over supporting a military attack. The protests of the past few days in Germany, France, Italy, and Britain, and even in the United States itself, show how far the political fate of the leaders of the countries involved is threatened by a long war with many casualties.

Daily on Zionist Conspiracies in Gulf

LD1201164891 Tehran IRNA in English 0936 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—An Iranian daily Saturday editorialized on the Persian Gulf crisis and warned against the Satanic conspiracies of the Zionist regime which would want to fish in the troubled waters.

The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' wrote that Saddam's objectives in invading Kuwait and the subsequent regional developments will be the main topic of political circles in the coming days.

Muslims throughout the world should in complete unity and vigilantly stand against the joint conspiracies of the U.S. and the Zionist regime and foil their Satanic and expansionist plans, it said.

The U.S. by massing its troops in the Persian Gulf region wants to secure a footstep in the region as to control the Islamic movements, which have seriously shaken foundation of the client states, and also to further strengthen the Zionist regime, which has increasingly become target of the severest threats ever by the Muslims.

The Zionist officials have recently said that the Palestinian uprisings will be suppressed, if a war breaks out. The Zionist ultimatum is not motivated by Saddam Husayn's threats, the paper said adding that if Saddam was serious in its anti-Zionist campaign, it would not have missed the good opportunities of the past years.

Palestinians must take actions with a stronger morale and Muslims throughout the world should render them their generous support.

The intifadah has made the Zionist regime vulnerable and if Muslims back the Palestinians wholeheartedly, the Zionist regime will inevitably surrender. This is what the U.S. is fearful of and Muslims must do their best to achieve it, said the editorial.

The paper in another commentary, touched on the U.N. Security Council January 15 deadline and said both the Americans and the Iraqis know well that war will entail irreparable damages and losses not only on them but on most of the U.S. regional allies.

Therefore, the two sides prefer to end the crisis without a war while both want to emerge as the victor and both are doing their best in this respect.

This reciprocal effort has put the Persian Gulf crisis in a deadlock. The world is anxious to know the outcome whether the problem is going to be solved by militarymen or diplomats, it concluded.

Pakistan

Army Says 10,000 Troops in Saudi Arabia by 15 Jan

BK1301085691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0831 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 13 (AFP)—Five thousand additional Pakistani troops will join multinational forces in Saudi Arabia before the January 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face war, an army spokesman said Sunday.

Most of the troops were to leave here Sunday aboard Saudi Airlines flights, said General Riaz Ullah, the army information chief.

Islamabad, which sent 5,000 troops to the Gulf between September and December, began dispatching the additional 5,000 forces Thursday, following the failure of U.S.-Iraqi peace talks in Geneva.

Pakistan has condemned Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and demanded an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal.

Defensive Role Only

BK1301132191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1230 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 13 (AFP)—The principal role of Pakistan's 10,800-strong troop contingent in the Gulf would be to defend Saudi Arabian territory in the event of an Iraqi attack, official sources said here Sunday.

But deployment to "some forward positions" has not been ruled out if war should break out, the sources said.

The remaining elements of the Pakistan contingent comprising an infantry brigade of 5,800 soldiers and an armoured brigade of 5,000, would be deployed by January 15, the U.N.-set deadline for an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait, a military spokesman said Sunday.

Ten thousand men will be deployed in northwestern Saudi Arabia close to the border between Jordan and Iraq, official sources said.

The remaining 800, the first troops to be sent to the Gulf by Islamabad, were deployed in early September in southern Saudi Arabia, close to the Yemeni border, the sources said.

Pakistani forces will be under Saudi Arabian command and supplied with heavy armaments by the Saudis, senior official said.

Once equipped, the troops "could extend their supportive role" and "could be deployed to some forward positions," though "not so close to the Kuwaiti border," said the official, who apparently ruled out any Pakistani involvement in an offensive on Kuwaiti territory.

"The dynamics of war could create an imponderable position," he added, without elaborating.

The United Nations has given Iraq until January 15 to withdraw from Kuwait or face possible military action from a U.S.-led multinational force.

The official said there was no possibility of a switch of alliances by Pakistan in favour of Iraq even if Israel became involved in the war.

Allegiance Said Not Changed if Israel Enters War

BK1301131491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1254 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 13 (AFP)—Pakistan, a Moslem country which has dispatched more than 10,000 troops to the Gulf, has ruled out a switch of allegiance from the U.S.-led multinational force to Iraq should Israel become involved in a war, official sources said here Sunday.

"We will not change our position in regard to the annexation of Kuwait under any circumstances," said a senior official who referred to it as Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's "crime."

"We have sent troops (to the Gulf) for a particular purpose, to defend Saudi Arabia, only for this purpose," said the official who requested anonymity.

"Saddam Husayn must withdraw because he has violated a sacrosanct principle of international laws," he said.

If Israel were attacked by Iraq, he said, "the Americans should urge Israel to show restraint" and it would be up to the multinational force arrayed against Iraq to respond.

If Israel were drawn into a Gulf war, which the official described as a hypothetical question, "the Americans would lose their stand in the area," he warned.

An Israeli retaliatory attack could receive a condemnation from Islamabad, according to officials who have minimised pro-Iraqi demonstrations here in recent days, saying only a "few thousand" people took part.

Pakistan refuses to "establish a linkage" between Kuwait and the Israeli-held occupied territories, as does Baghdad, though Islamabad "is opposed to the Israeli occupation of Arab land," he said.

"Why he did not first attack Israel?" asked the official. "We want the Israelis to cooperate and solve the Palestinian question."

Privately, certain Pakistani officials say they prefer war to any peace formula that would allow Mr. Husayn to save face.

They note that Mr. Hussein offered no support to Pakistan in conflicts with India over disputed Kashmir and Afghanistan.

Pro-Iraqi Demonstrators Burn Bush Effigy

BK1201164691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1633 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 12 (AFP)—Hundreds of Pakistani youths, joined by hooded Palestinian students, burnt Saturday an effigy of U.S. President George Bush to condemn U.S. plans to force Iraq from Kuwait, witnesses said.

Chanting slogans in support of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, demonstrators representing various right- and left-wing student organisations termed the Gulf crisis a "war between Islam and infidels" and torched the U.S. president in effigy.

Anti-riot police deployed in strength surrounded the U.S. consulate building, where the marchers, carrying banners such as "Saddam we are with you" and "down with U.S. imperialism," were seeking to demonstrate.

They included several dozen Palestinian students who had covered their faces with the traditional Arab scarf, witnesses said.

Some political party leaders who also participated convinced the youths to divert their route to avoid any incidents.

The protest was the third in Pakistan and the second in the past 48 hours in this Pathan City where sentiment has been growing in favour of Iraq in the run-up to the January 15 U.N. deadline for Iraq to pull out of Kuwait or face attack.

A similar protest was organised in the port city of Karachi Friday.

Washington has allowed the return home of American nationals engaged in various U.S.-funded organisations or attached to the embassy as non-essential staff.

Informed sources said hundreds have planned to go back before Tuesday's deadline.

Before dispersing peacefully, leaders of the rally vowed to offer Moslem volunteers to fight alongside Iraq and condemned Islamabad's decision to join the U.S.-led multinational force in Saudi Arabia, claiming that Pakistani troops there would become cannon fodder.

Pakistan, which despatched 5,000 troops by late November, began rushing another 5,000 soldiers immediately after the Iraq-U.S. parleys collapsed in Geneva on Wednesday.

Islamabad, a longtime Washington ally in the region, has condemned Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, but it opposes the use of force to restore Kuwait's sovereignty. While calling for an unconditional Iraqi troop withdrawal, Pakistan, along with Iran and Turkey, has demanded an emergency session of the 45-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference [Islamic Conference Organization] to help end the inter-Arab dispute.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, in separate letters to the U.N. secretary general as well as to the heads of state and government of over a dozen Western and Moslem countries, Friday urged intensified international efforts to "save the region from a catastrophe."

Pakistan, he said, "stands ready to contribute effectively to safeguarding and preserving peace and security in the region."

Muslim Leader Vows To Raise Pro-Iraq Force

BK1401005091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1729 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Karachi, Jan 13 (AFP)—An influential Pakistani religious leader vowed here Sunday to raise 25,000 volunteers to wage "holy war" alongside Iraq if hostilities erupt in the Gulf.

Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, who attended the Baghdad Islamic conference convened by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, told a news conference that enlistment of volunteers would begin soon.

The leader of the Jamaat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan, a Sunni party with three deputies in the National Assembly, said he hoped ex-servicemen and young Pakistanis would respond "very positively" to his call for 25,000 volunteers.

However, he said he was not sure if the Pakistani Government, which has committed 10,000 troops to the U.S.-led multinational force in Saudi Arabia, would allow the dispatch of the volunteer contingent. He criticised Islamabad's decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia without securing prior parliamentary approval. He said he believed the move served U.S interests. His party has planned a large pro-Iraq rally here Monday.

He was joined by another religious and political leader, Fazlur Rahman, in calling for the immediate pullout of U.S. forces from Saudi Arabia.

Speaking in the Punjab Province city of Multan, Mr. Rahman reminded a press conference that the Saudi Government had summoned U.S. forces to protect the kingdom and sacred Moslem places and not to attack Iraq.

Mr. Rahman, who heads the fundamentalist Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam which backs the ruling alliance, said Iraq was currently "isolated" but would gain widespread support if attacked.

Sharif Urges World Leaders To Solve Gulf Crisis

BK1101162991 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has made a fervent appeal to the heads of state and government of a number of countries to use their influence to bring about a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis. In his letters addressed to them, the prime minister said Pakistan stands ready to contribute effectively to safeguarding and preserving peace and security of the region. The letters were sent to the heads of state and government of the United States, the Soviet Union, United Kingdom, France, People's Republic of China, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Iran, Turkey, Germany, Japan and Luxembourg. The prime minister said the mounting crisis in the Gulf has brought the region close to a catastrophe. A war in the region would bring [words indistinct] a major political, economic and ecological disaster. It is therefore essential for Iraq to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait to avert it. The international community must intensify their efforts to seek a peaceful way out of the present impasse, he said.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif has also sent a message to the UN Secretary General, Mr. Perez De Cuellar, on the eve of his departure for Iraq in an effort to seek peaceful solution of the crisis. The prime minister said it was encouraging to him to learn that the Secretary General was going to Baghdad for a dialogue with the Iraqi leadership. He conveyed full support of the government and the people of Pakistan for Mr. Perez de Cuellar's mission of peace. He sincerely hoped that it would contribute toward achieving a peaceful settlement of the crisis.